

Passionate about photography since 1884

15 Biggest printing problems solved

Turn your **best images** into **perfect prints** with our guide

- Get stunning prints for less
- Essential pre-print checklist
- Your biggest headaches cured





Tokina AT-X 11-20mm f/2.8 PRO DX

Looking for a **fast wideangle zoom** for your APS-C DSLR?



Get the **less is more** look — a master of the art reveals all



Modern love

How to shoot contemporary architecture



Free pull-out guide Top pros share the secrets behind their pictures

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ln this issue

12 Your printing problems solved

Get to grips with your print workflow and you can improve your success rate, says Tim Daly

19 Competition

Win one of three Gillis bags worth a total of £760

22 Location guide

Jeremy Walker recommends Loch Harport on the Isle of Skye

24 Keeping it minimal

It's time to focus on creative vision, not fancy gear, says Simeon Smith

28 When Harry met **Peter Capaldi**

Harry Borden looks back on a shoot with Doctor Who

32 Building on success

Janie Airey explains how modern buildings can look as amazing as their historic counterparts

35 Behind the pictures

Five brand ambassadors who attended the Park Cameras Imaging Festival reveal their top tips

44 Canon EOS 6D Mark II

Michael Topham puts Canon's latest full-frame offering through its paces

51 Tokina AT-X 11-20mm f/2.8 **PRO DX**

We test Tokina's new wideangle zoom lens

Regulars

- 3 7 days
- 10 Inbox
- **30 Reader Portfolio**
- 55 Accessories
- **57 Tech Support**
- **74** Final Analysis

A week in photography



There are many benefits to the digital photography revolution, but the decline in photographic printing is one unforeseen (and regrettable) consequence of the

march of technology. Think about how many strong images are languishing on your hard drive or cloud storage that would have been printed as a matter of course only a few years ago. As Charlie Waite said, the print is the

ONLINE

Photographer co.uk

Amateur amateurphotographer.



Facebook.com/Amateur. photographer.magazine

photograph's rightful inheritance. So, turn to page 12 for our complete troubleshooting guide to home printing that's full of practical advice to ensure your prints look as good as possible.

Pride of place in this issue's review section goes to the Canon EOS 6D Mark II, an affordable but powerful full-frame SLR, and don't miss our exclusive supplement dedicated to pro speakers from Park Cameras' recent open day. Nigel Atherton, Editor









Ghost

by Nick Hurst

Nikon D5, 600mm, 1/1250sec at f/4, ISO 1100

AP reader Nick Hurst says, 'I took this image in the fields just before harvest in Billericay, Essex. On that summer evening the light was fairly flat and soft. Shot wide open, the 600mm f/4G ED VR lens has the ability to melt the foreground and background, isolating the subject and creating a smooth bokeh. I

settled for a speed of 1/1250sec providing an acceptable ISO of 1100. Post-production was minimal in Lightroom and Photoshop.

'Barn owls are very elusive. I had some help setting up this shot from the fantastic team at the Imperial Bird of Prey Academy in Billericay and Robin Lowry.'

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CD/DVD Send us a disc of high-resolution JPEG, TIFF or PSD images (at least 2480 pixels along its longest length), with a contact sheet, to the address on page 59.

Via our online communities Post your pictures into our Flickr group, Facebook page, Twitter feed, or the gallery on our website. See details above. Transparencies/prints Well-packaged prints or slides (without glass mounts) should be sent by Special Delivery, with a return SAE, to the address on page 59.



NEWS ROUND-UP

The week in brief, edited by Liam Clifford and Hollie Latham Hucker



Mating flies win nature competition

An image of two flies mating has beaten 400 other entries to win the Spirit of Nature Photography Competition, organised by the Society of International Nature and Wildlife Photographers (SINWP). Winning photographer Larry Doherty from County Tipperary, Ireland, said, 'The hardest part was making sure I got the two flies' heads in focus.' Larry wins 12 months' membership of the SINWP.



Take a pic, win a break Guests at two Grace Hotels can win

Guests at two Grace Hotels can win a two-night break and an Olympus TG-5 by capturing their holiday memories on a TG-5 loaned to them as part of a deal with Olympus. Guests at Grace Mykonos and Grace Santorini must upload their pictures by 31 October 2017. Visit en-gb. facebook.com/OlympusUK.

DJI Spark gets new features

Updates for the small, hand-gesture-controlled Spark drone have been released by DJI. They include new gestures to start and stop video recording, enhanced QuickShot video features for more cinematic control, 180° photo shooting mode and improved photo image resolution. www.dji.com.



Hire longer for less

Hireacamera has a new offer that will see customers benefiting from savings of up to 30% on all camera loans taken out for four days or longer. Following the company's strong growth in the past 18 months, a spokesperson said: 'We have reached a level where we are able to pass on extra savings to our customers, and offer them some of the most competitive rates in the camera hire market.' www.hireacamera.com.

VEO 2 tripod range launched

.....

Vanguard has released a new range of tripods called VEO 2. Built from carbon fibre or aluminium, the new line is available in 12 different configurations, including four or five leg sections and three colour choices. Strong, lightweight and compact, the new collection is for photographers who want to travel light. The range starts from £109.99. www.vanguardworld.co.uk.

e 2



GET UP & GO



Theatrical and Creative Dance Lighting Workshop

Book in advance for this workshop in Leigh, Surrey, where you will learn how to create theatrical-style images in a studio setting. Using theatrical and creative lighting, Jon Gray shows you how to add mood and atmosphere to your images.

2 September, www.rps.org/events



World Press Photo

This worldwide touring exhibition of award-winning photos is on show at the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. There were 5,034 entries from 125 countries. Images range from hard-hitting and challenging, to moving and inspiring, that tell contemporary stories from nature, daily life, news and sport.

Until 26 August, www.parliament.scot





BEG

A new book explores Steve McCurry's love affair with Afghanistan

Steve McCurry is a legend of travel and documentary photography. This month, Taschen is releasing *Afghanistan* (RRP £59.99) by McCurry, which collects 40 years of images taken in the country.

Here we see one of his pictures in which a flock of doves burst to life in front of Mazar-e Sharif's famous Blue Mosque, the shrine of Hazrat Ali. Revered by Muslims as the tomb of the son-in-law of the prophet Mohammed, this 15th century mosque near the border of Uzbekistan is so named after the cobalt blue and turquoise colours of its minarets and domes. The white doves provide a symbol of peace, and are fed and cared for by travellers, traders and farmers who come to market, and by residents of the northern region who come to the city to pray at the mosque.

Words & numbers

The most interesting things to see, to do and to shoot this week. By Oliver Atwell



Printing with Lightroom

Learn how to get the best results from your printer and Adobe Lightroom. Suitable for beginners, the course teaches the essentials of colour management and how to edit images in Lightroom for print. During the course you will use print profiles for soft proofing and printing out to inkjet.

3 September, www.rps.org/events



Developed in Birmingham

These hands-on workshops, talks, walks and events reveal, explore and celebrate the city's significant role in the early history of photography. Experience a variety of events in a range of venues and public spaces across the city.

Until 3 September, www. developedinbirmingham.com



Edinburgh International Exhibition of Photography

This exhibition showcases some of the best in modern art imagery from both amateur and professional photographers. The salon began more than 150 years ago, and is one of the few print-only exhibitions still going.

Until 27 August, www.

Until 27 August, www. edinburghphotosalon.org

I don't think tragic situations are necessarily devoid of beauty

James Nachtwey

American photojournalist and war photographer, b 1948







Sony posts record first-quarter profits

SONY has announced a record first-quarter (April-June) profit of 157.61 billion yen (approximately £1.08 billion), beating original estimates of 133.3 billion yen, and largely contributed to by its growing success in imaging-sensor production.

The figures tell a story of impressive recovery after powerful earthquakes in Kumamoto, Japan, caused significant damage to the company's sensor-production facilities last year.

Sony has invested roughly \$4 billion in its sensor-production business, transforming the division into a fully fledged company in 2015 called Sony Semiconductor Solutions. According to Bloomberg figures, Sony now controls about half of the world's sensor market, up from about 40% in 2015. This is largely due to the rise in demand for dual-sensor smartphones, especially in the Chinese markets.

Sony's Imaging Products and



Solutions business also made a healthy contribution to the firm's results, with operating income from product sales increasing by 209.1%.

It is interesting that Sony has posted these results at a generally challenging time for other camera makers, and it is also encouraging to see that camera sales now make such a contribution to the Japanese giant's bottom line.

Andy Westlake, AP's technical editor, commented on the results: 'New cameras tend to show a large spike in orders immediately after they're announced, before settling down to a steadier rate of sales.

Sony's key new product was the revolutionary high-speed mirrorless Alpha 9, which we know has gathered a huge amount of interest from professional photographers. These results could indicate that interest has translated into a healthy number of early orders for a high-priced model that presumably earns Sony a handy profit per unit sold.'

Watch out for an upcoming in-depth field test of the Sony Alpha 9 by leading sports photographer Bob Martin



David Noton's website hacked

PROFESSIONAL photographer and AP contributor David Noton has been coping with the mother of all IT headaches recently, after his main website was subjected to a ransomware attack.

Although David had moved his site to a dedicated server a year ago because he'd been the victim of hacker attacks before, his website-hosting company's back-up procedure ending up exacerbating the crisis.

'They were backing up the site every day, but they overwrote the site with the hacked, corrupted version,' said David.

The hackers demanded payment, which David refused. Fortunately, David has been able to make a new site without too much loss of business, and his f11 members' site at www. f11photographymagazine. com was unaffected.

See David's new site at www.davidnoton.com.



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Leica stake to be sold

IT IS being reported that buyout group Blackstone has opened up talks with potential purchasers for its 45% stake in premium camera and optics maker Leica Camera AG.

According to sources speaking to Reuters news agency, the company has teamed up with an investment bank to sell its stake in the company, with several potential buyers possibly lined up including fellow German optics producer Zeiss.

The sources also say that Leica is expected to report earnings, before

interest and tax, of roughly €70 million this year and may have a valuation of around €700 million in a potential deal.

Blackstone was first brought in as a Leica investor in 2011. The new buyer will have to cut a deal with the owners of the other 55% of the iconic brand - Austria's Kaufmann family who, savs chairman Andreas Kaufmann, 'have longterm goals' with the company.

Reportedly, Zeiss would only agree to a buyout deal if it were able to secure a majority stake.

Leica Camera AG was founded by Ernst Leitz in 1924, and soon released the world's first portable 35mm camera. This was later used by Henri Cartier-Bresson and other Magnum photographers to capture world events such as the Spanish Civil War and the communist revolution in China realistically, and without the large, immobile cameras of the time.

In May 2014, Leica moved into a new purpose-built headquarters in its home town of Wetzlar, 70km north of Frankfurt in Germany.

New Books

The latest and best books from the world of photography. By Oliver Atwell



The Beatles: On the Road 1964-1966

by Harry Benson, Taschen, £29.99, 272 pages, hardback, ISBN 978-3-83655-767-2



Girl Culture

by Lauren Greenfield, Chronicle

ISBN 978-1-45215-928-7

Books, £20.40, 156 pages, hardback,

THE BEATLES have been generously served by photography books and documentary material. However, this immersive collection succeeds in its intimate approach to a band that was on the verge of making history within just a

couple of years. In 1964, photographer Harry Benson was asked by the Daily Express to shadow the band on their inaugural journey to the US. Initially reluctant, he soon found himself impressed and ultimately swept up in the mania surrounding the band. In the years that followed the publication of these photographs, the images have become inextricably linked with the band. You'll know many of them, but to see them collected in one place is a very different - and almost exciting - experience. This is a must-have for any Beatles fan, and a pretty decent addition for anyone interested in historical documentary photography. ***

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Top 100 EyeEm images on show

ONLINE photographic community EyeEm has revealed its pick of the top 100 entries in its 2017 Photography Awards, which saw more than 88,000 photographers submit over 590,000 images.

The jury – which included representatives from the BBC, National Geographic, VII Photo Agency and Refinery29 – judged entries across five different categories: The Architect, The Portraitist, The Photojournalist, The Street Photographer, and The Great Outdoors.

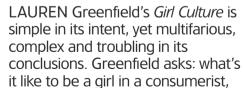
The winning shots will be revealed at the EyeEm Festival on 16 September, with the grand prizewinner netting themselves a trip to the Festival and Awards in Berlin, Germany, personal mentorship from a renowned photographer, and state-of-the-art camera equipment.

You can see the full list of 100 photographs at eyeem.com/awards/finalists.



This shot by Uta Lauterbach was

entered in The Portraitist category



celebrity-obsessed culture? The answers she finds through more than 100 images and a number of interviews are, quite honestly, depressing. Girl Culture was first released in 2002, and perhaps the most shocking thing about this new edition is that we find not much has changed. Greenfield's camera travels around America, confronting themes of beauty pageants, hypersexualisation, eating disorders, nights out and everything in between. This book is an utterly vital time capsule, and in fact all her work confirms her as – for me – one of the most important documentary photographers working today. ***

For the latest news visit www.amateurphotographer.co.uk

Viewpoint Nigel Atherton

Nikon says it's developing a new mirrorless camera. Nigel Atherton is hoping for a change of direction that steers it away from the 1 series

f I were on first-name terms with Doctor Who – friendly enough, say, to borrow his Tardis at weekends – one of the fun things I'd like to do is bring people back from the past to show them what the world looks like now.

Imagine taking the Wright brothers to modern-day Heathrow Airport, or taking Galileo around Cape Canaveral. Slightly less dramatically, I'd love to fetch some AP readers from the 1970s and show them the cameras of today. They would marvel at the speed, quality, convenience and variety of today's digital cameras, from DSLRs and action cameras to drones, and think we're a thoroughly spoiled generation.

Mirrorless cameras would be a particular source of envy for our bell-bottom-wearing time travellers, and I'd have a fun game lined up to entertain them over their quinoa and rocket salad lunch in which I'd cover up the brand names of each system and they'd have to guess which was which. I bet that when asked to pick out Nikon's contribution they'd choose the Fujifilm X system over the poor old 1 system every time.

Abandoned the brand values

I don't think I'm being controversial when I say that in developing its mirrorless system, Nikon abandoned the brand values on which its reputation was built in favour of pursuing a mythical demographic of gadget-loving compact users looking to trade in their camera phones for

shiny, high-tech, pocket-sized, point-and-shoot cameras with interchangeable lenses. The 1 system hits this target audience perfectly – the only problem is that these people don't actually exist in sufficient numbers to justify all that investment. It turns out that most of

them are happy with their camera phones after all. Meanwhile, Fujifilm crept in when Nikon wasn't looking and built the mirrorless cameras that Nikon should have made, and is now reaping the rewards.

I'm hoping that, after several years spent flogging a dead horse, Nikon may have admitted defeat and is starting again. In a statement made to DPReview recently, a Nikon spokesperson said, 'We are currently developing new mirrorless products that build upon Nikon's strengths, and offer the performance prospective customers expect, including the ultimate optics performance, image–processing technologies, strength and durability, and operation.'

That doesn't sound like a 1-system camera, and as someone with a cupboard full of Nikon kit, I am pretty excited by that. I'm hoping for a mirrorless version of my FM2, and I know I'm not alone. The last time Nikon took inspiration from this well-loved classic we ended up with the Df – a kind of *Land of the Giants* version – but by making it mirrorless Nikon should be able to get close to the perfect dimensions of the original... fingers crossed.

Nigel Atherton is Editor of Amateur Photographer.



Do you have something you'd like to get off your chest? Send us your thoughts in around 500 words to the address on page 59 and win a year's digital subscription to AP, worth £79.99

In next week's issue

On sale Tuesday 22 August



Perfect colours

Three professionals explain why colour management should be an integral part of all photographers' workflow



You're hired

If you can't afford the kit you'd love to own, why not try renting some gear? We look at some of the rental options available

Nikon D5600

We test Nikon's latest intermediate-level DSLR and find out what improvements have been made over the D5500

Top gear revealed

The very best photographic products selected for the 2017-2018 EISA awards

TOM BRYAN

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D A B

In AP 5 August we asked...

Do you go out of your way to find great light for photography?

You answered...

- **A** Yes, I am often up at sunrise and shooting at dusk **12%**
- **B** As much as possible but I'm not obsessive about it **34%**
- **C** Not really, I make the best of whatever light is available **47%**
- **D** I try to capture nice light but I am not afraid of 'improving' light in software **7%**

What you said

'Most of my photos are taken in daylight. Sometimes the light is good for my purposes and sometimes it's not so good. I just try to work with the prevailing light conditions.'

'Not really, though I do like a decent sunset which are rarer than you might wish – all too often the sky promises then fails to deliver. I make the best of what light there is and sometimes you can get lucky... If the light is really horrible, there's often not much that can be done other than go home.'

'If you travel, then often going out of one's way for great light isn't always an option so it's much better to learn to get the best of what you are given.'

'If I have a composition or location in mind, I will always try to be there in good light. That doesn't necessarily mean at either end of the day. Great light can be had during the day, if the clouds assist!'

Join the debate on the AP forum

This week we ask...

What do you find is the biggest annoyance with home printing?

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Inbox matters

What's going on? In Inbox, 22 July, in response to a reader who laments the reduction in size of the said feature, Geoff Harris boasts that 'we've never had so many contributions, particularly via our Facebook page, which is why we've shifted the emphasis to that'.

Sad. I buy *Amateur Photographer* weekly because I value the existence of an excellent print magazine about my hobby, photography, at a time

when many magazines and newspapers are migrating to the internet, and/or going out of business. (Just like I buy magazines about my other love, jazz.)

We live in a world where folk expect all information (and music, films etc) to be free, gratis and for nothing. Just sit on a train and observe how many passengers are reading a newspaper. Usually it's just one – myself!

So back to Inbox: I look at Facebook now and again, but this is no substitute for the pleasure of going to the newsagent, locating and purchasing the latest AP, buying a coffee and cake, and devouring AP (and cake).

In closing, please don't ignore your print customers. We are not technophobes, but we prefer to read AP features on paper, rather than squinting at a screen. **Barry Shaw, via email**

Fear not, Barry. We reduced Inbox to a page when we had a dip in correspondence, but it seems to be going up again so we'll shortly be restoring Inbox to its previous two pages.

Keep those letters coming, folks! — Nigel Atherton, editor

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added memory capacity and multi-device functionality. This UHS-I Speed Class 1 (U1) and Class 10 compatible card is perfect for capturing photos and video recording. www.samsung.com



DIRECTOR IN

Fuji lens test

In Michael Topham's review (5 August), he states: 'Another part of its spec is its 46mm thread' so, another set of filters just for this lens. 'it doesn't have any switches on the barrel' would be a detrimental point in any other lens review. 'This lens is noticeably quieter. It's not entirely silent' but a big improvement! 'Examination revealed visible levels of corner

shading vignette from the lens isn't distasteful. It's tolerable for most applications'. 'X series users aren't short of choice when it comes to fast mid telephoto primes' – this one brings it up to three! 'Factor in that it can be bought with the 35mm f/2 for less than the cost' both Canon and Nikon have lenses cheaper than this one. In fact, the Canon version of this lens is smaller,

lighter and a third of the price.

In spite of all these misgivings, he still gives it five stars. I think he might be a tad biased.

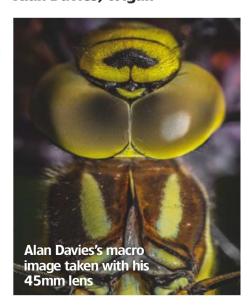
Nick, via email

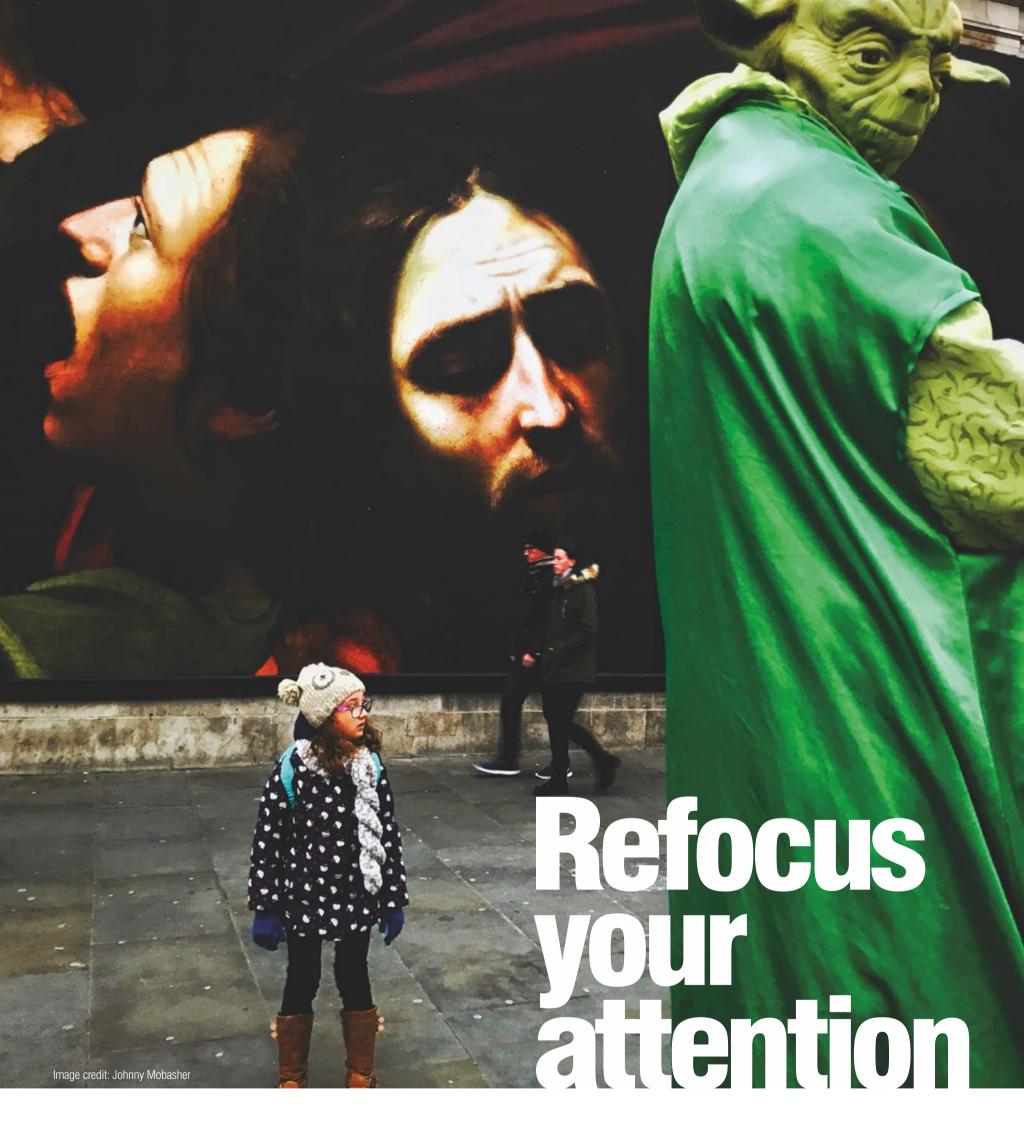
I can assure you, Nick, that all of our reviews are completely unbiased towards any manufacturer and we, the reviewers here at AP, spend countless hours taking it in turns to test different products from different manufacturers. One day I might be reviewing a Fujinon lens, whereas the next I might be out testing Nikon's latest DSLR or putting a new travel tripod through its paces. We've always been proud at AP of bringing our readers the most thorough and impartial reviews of any publication. In the case of the Fujinon XF 50mm f/2 R WR, it's an outstanding lens that delivers sensational results. If I were a Fujifilm X-series user, which I should clearly state I'm not, it's a lens that would be high on my wish list. Having tested the lens very extensively and been mightily impressed with its performance and the results it produces, I'm sticking by my guns and will say it fully justifies our highest award - Michael Topham, reviews editor

Macro magic

I took a macro shot of the head of a Southern Hawker Dragonfly with my Lumix GX8 and 45mm and it set me thinking. What would one eye equate to in camera terms of sensor size, number of pixels etc? A close look reminded me of the hexagonal pixels Fuji used for a while in its early compacts.

Alan Davies, Wigan





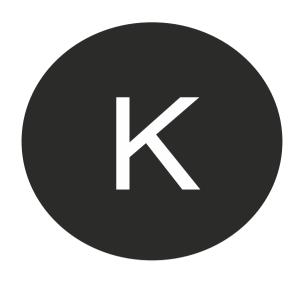
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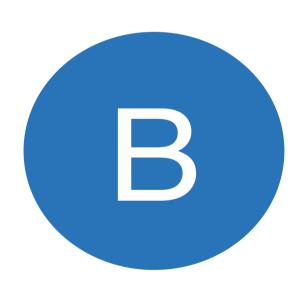




More ink colours ultimately mean better print quality











Tim Daly

Tim Daly is a photographer, teacher and author who has contributed to most UK photography magazines over the past 15 years. He has written numerous books on digital production, printing and the creation of photobooks, and currently teaches photography at the University of Chester, and for the RPS in Bath. To find out more, visit **www.timdaly.com**.

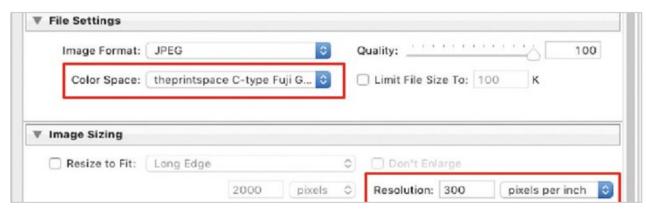
rinting

It's never been more important to print easily lost digital images, but the process can be frustrating. Tim Daly shares his cast-iron print workflow for a higher success rate and lower printing costs

How can I reduce ink costs?
Third-party, refillable or remanufactured cartridges use mostly dye-based inks that are unstable in daylight. Pigment inks, on the other hand, such as Epson UltraChrome and Canon Lucia, are more lightfast and better for making prints for sale or display. Although the cost of a set of professional printer inks can be as much as 30% of the original hardware price, you can minimise wastage by using print profiles. Dye-based inks are perfectly acceptable for reference or contact prints, so a good option is to run an A4 all-in-one inkjet with separate ink cartridges with third-party dye-based inks, in addition to a professional inkjet with pigment inks. An A2 proofer-style inkjet such as the Epson Stylus Pro 4900 also accepts higher 200ml capacity ink cartridges, which gives a cheaper unit cost per print in the long run.

What's the best way to prepare files for printing?

To make effective prints, first ensure your image file has a pure black and white point. In Lightroom, move the Black and White sliders in the Basic panel until the two tiny white triangles at the right and left top corners of the histogram turn white. This confirms pure black (left) and white (right). After your creative edits, increase the Exposure slider by +0.5 to brighten the image. Finally, sharpen by setting 25, 1, 25, 0 in the Detail panel, then select the print profile in the Color Management panel. For printing with an online lab, skip this last step and go to File>Export. Here, you need to save the file as an 8-bit, high-quality JPEG and change the Color Space to the print profile that your chosen lab has provided, such as The Print Space Fujifilm Gloss.



When remote printing, it's essential to re-tag your image file with the recommended lab profile

Technique perfect your printing



3 What are the best working conditions for home printing?

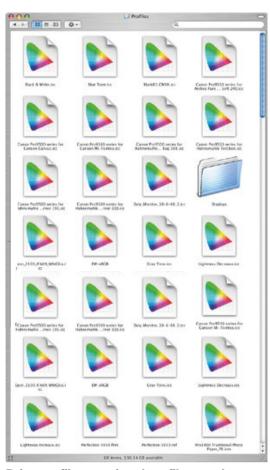
The way we perceive colour and brightness can be influenced by many external factors, so it's important to remove as many distractions from your workspace as possible. First, set up your monitor using the D65 white point, sometimes referred to as 6500K, or 'daylight', which is the industry standard viewing source for the photo industry. The same D65 standard can also be

specified for examining prints through a desktop viewing light or booth with prices starting from \$80 for the Color Confidence GrafLite Mode. The best kind of colour to paint your room is a neutral grey like an 18% Kodak Graycard. Trade paint manufacturer Leyland makes a similar grey called Frigate. Next, consider using a ColorMunki Display calibration device that is left plugged into your workstation and responds dynamically to changes in ambient light levels in your room.



4 Which type of printing paper should I use?

There are many more different types of inkjet papers available compared to digital C-type media. In addition to the standard glossy, matt and lustre inkjet papers, thicker media such as the heavyweight baryta are excellent for exhibition printing. In addition to weight, art inkjet papers made from 100% cotton can also make your print feel like a handmade artwork. These cotton papers can have a smooth surface or a variety of textures. Hahnemühle, Innova and Canson all make a wide range of luxury papers supported with free print profiles. Digital C-type prints are usually limited to Fujifilm gloss or matt surfaces, with the better labs printing on the plastic-based Fujiflex or the silver-based Kodak Metallic. If you make black & white prints consider cream-based papers from Harman and PermaJet. Broadly, gloss papers have the widest gamut and create less colour loss when soft proofing.



Print profiles are tiny data files used to convert pixel colour to ink colour

5 How do print profiles work?

Print profiles work by getting the best results from these three variables: printer model, ink type and paper type. Print profiles are freely available from third-party paper manufacturers' websites and are tiny data files with the .icc or .icm extension, typically 100K or less in size. Profiles need to be installed into the correct folder of your OS for them to be made visible: Windows PC users need to right click on the profile and choose Install Profile; Mac users need to drag the files into Library>ColorSync>Profiles. Profiles make a great job of converting pixel colour into ink colour and also adjust the tonality of the image to fit the characteristics of the paper, so they are essential for black & white printing too. Each paper has its own profile that is linked to a specific printer model and ink, so if either is changed, such as using third-party inks, the profile is useless. When printer manufacturers such as Epson and Canon design printer drivers they also include purpose-made print profiles for each of their papers within the driver. In fact, by choosing one of the Media Type options from the printer software, you are triggering the use of a hidden print profile.

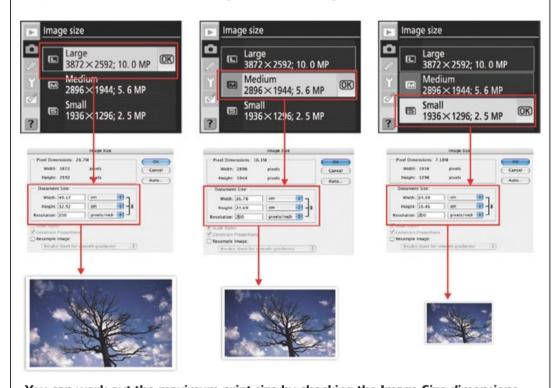


IET International Engineering Photography Competition

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The bigger the megapixel value of your DSLR, the bigger pixel bitmap it creates and the bigger print you can make. Inkjets and digital C-types require files prepared at a different pixel per inch (ppi) size, but it's easy to work out how big you can print if you know the pixel dimensions of your image. For inkjets, your files need to be a minimum of 200ppi to make a photorealistic print. For digital C-types, files need to be packaged at

300ppi. As an example, a file with dimensions of 6000x4000 pixels can make a 30x20in inkjet print or a 20x13in C-type. You'll see no extra sharpness or detail if you prepare your files for inkjet printing at 300ppi. Although many inkjet printer manufacturers advocate printing at 240ppi, there's little visible difference between this and 200ppi. Most online labs flag up files that are below their recommended resolutions, helping you to avoid blurry prints.



You can work out the maximum print size by checking the Image Size dimensions

My prints never seem to match what I see on my computer screen

At the root of many printing problems lies the incompatibility of two very different technologies. Coloured light transmitted by a desktop monitor is different to coloured light reflected from printing inks on paper. Both systems have their own unique way of reproducing colour and both have fixed characteristic ranges or gamut. Although these two ranges overlap in parts, the colour gamut of a print will always be smaller than the range of a monitor. Do not hold up a print next to the same image on screen as it will never match. High-contrast glossy screens on most desktop and all-in-one computer systems make judging print brightness difficult too, so always make your edits slightly brighter than you think is necessary – this will always be at least +0.5 stops than you think, as shown below.







Make your edits slightly brighter than you think is necessary

.....

Both Photoshop and Lightroom will display out-of-gamut colours to help you edit files within the limits of the paper/ink/ printer combination

What exactly is colour space and why does it matter when printing?

Another term for colour space is colour palette. At the point of printing, our image file has often been translated across three different colour palettes: shot in-camera as Adobe RGB (1998), edited in Lightroom within ProPhoto, then converted by a print profile. These palettes have their own characteristics, so it's important to take control of each step. Always shoot in the biggest palette such as Adobe RGB (1998), and if you are a Photoshop user ensure its Color Settings are synchronised to the same space (Lightroom uses the all-inclusive ProPhoto colour space, so there's no need). Always soft proof and print with a print profile. Gamut warnings (see left) show up the areas when two spaces (input v output) don't quite meet.













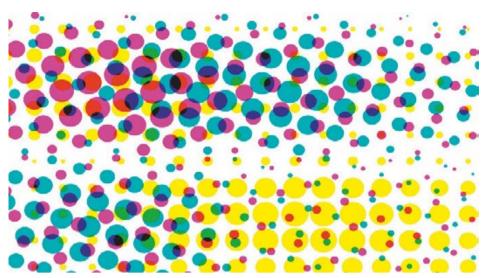




For details and how to enter visit www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/competitions/iet

#IETPhotoComp

Technique perfect your printing



Inkjet prints with two or more dot sizes mimic the tone of a traditional print

9 What is dpi and why does it matter?

The term dots per inch (dpi), when applied to a printer, should not be confused with the resolution of an image file – they are two separate issues. Dpi describes the density of physical ink droplets per inch sprayed by an inkjet printer onto receiving media. Individual colour dots are placed on top of each

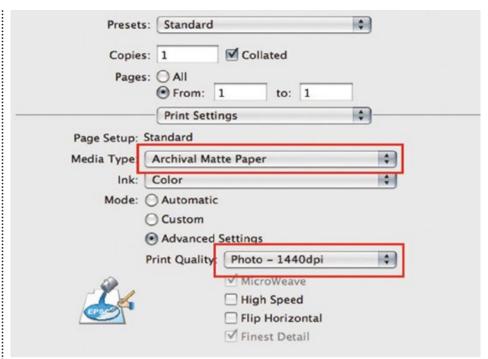
other or overlapping – they are not spatially separated. The bigger the dpi number, the more photo-real your prints will be. Printers that can drop an additional half or quarter-sized dot can inflate their dpi values to 2880 or 5660. Most inkjet printers' true resolution (it's capability to drop spatially separate dots of ink) is 180–240 droplets per inch.

10 Why should I calibrate my monitor?

Most printing problems are the result of not calibrating your monitor. However, the cost of a basic monitor profiler is easily less than a year's supply of wasted ink and paper. Calibration is all about setting a neutral colour balance and an industry-standard level of brightness and contrast and is the first stage in establishing a colour-controlled workflow. An uncorrected monitor will always give you a false representation of your image and make accurate colour printing virtually impossible.

Although there are softwarebased monitor profilers available, it's much better to buy a purpose-made hardware profiling device such as a ColorMunki Display. After attaching the device to your screen, the software automatically generates a series of tests and measurements to create a bespoke display profile file that is automatically placed in your computer's system folder. The profile is independent from any application and is loaded as the default setting each time the monitor is switched on. It's a good idea to reprofile your screen every six months.





Mid-range Print Quality settings give the best speed/quality combinations

11 Explain print speed and quality

It can be difficult to see the difference in quality between prints made with 1440dpi and 2880dpi settings. Prints made with the finest possible ink droplets, such as 2880dpi, take much longer to print than those printed at 1440dpi and show little

visible benefit. Many of the better printers use dynamic dot distribution to drop only the smallest dots in finely detailed areas when printing with the faster 1440dpi setting. At the finer 2880dpi, smaller dots of ink are put down everywhere, doubling the time it takes and with little visible advantage in detail.



The black cartridge became blocked during this print

12Why do my prints have lines/bands across them?

When your inkjet has a blocked nozzle, you'll see faint white lines on your print lying parallel to the direction of the print head, or your print will have an unexpected colour cast (see above). In your printer software utility, run a head-cleaning routine to see if this solves the problem. Using cotton or textured inkjet papers often creates nozzle blocks and these can take a couple of runs of the cleaning routine to clear.

Always print the test sheet to see if the blockage has cleared. Many new inkjets have by default an auto head-cleaning routine that starts each time you switch your printer on – switch this option off, as over time it will waste an enormous amount of ink. White dots on a print running perpendicular to the print head are a sign of head-alignment issues and can be caused after printing with thicker paper or card. Use the utility again and run the printer-head alignment routine to get it back into position.

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Technique perfect your printing



13 Why do my black & white prints have a slight colour cast?

Colour casts in black & white prints can be caused by many things, including not using a print profile and blocked printer nozzles. For the best results, keep your image in RGB mode and avoid printing black & white inkjets using just the black inks, as this reduces fine detail. Alternatively, try the online Ilford Lab service. Ilford Lab prints onto resincoated silver gelatin paper, rather than colour C-type paper, creating neutral and colour cast-free prints.



14 How do I choose a reliable printer?

Currently, there are 16 colours employed in the world of inkjet printing. In addition to the standard CMYK and their lighter versions, recent innovations have introduced red, green, orange and blue. Prosumer inkjets are based on an eight-colour set, which includes three strengths of black, but the latest high-dynamic-range printers use an inkset that includes green and orange. These extra colours really extend the



gamut of the device. There are three price tiers to consider: an A4 all-in-one with separate inks (try the Canon Pixma MX925, £110), an A3+ professional inkjet with nine pigment inks (try the Epson SureColor SC-P600, £500), or an A2 proofer style (try the Epson Stylus Pro 4900, £1400, with 11 pigment inks). The images above show the gamut warning for a saturated image made using a mid-range printer (right) and a top-of-the-range printer (left). More inks mean less lost colour.

15 Are there benefits to digital C-type prints?

Many people prefer to print digital C-types as they offer great dynamic range, rich colour saturation and fine resolution. There's also the added benefit of chemical permanence. Digital C-types are made up to 12in wide on mini-lab systems such as the Frontier or Noritsu, and larger prints on

Chromega or Lightjet systems. Most C-type printing services can be accessed online with prints returned in the post. Just like inkjet paper profiles, chemically processed C-types have their own print profiles. Professional labs such as ThePrintSpace provide free bespoke print profiles for all their different C-type papers that you can download and use in your workflow.



PRINTING SERVICES TO TRY ONLINE



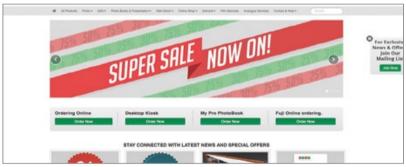
Whitewall uk.whitewall.com



ThePrintSpace www.theprintspace.co.uk



C41s www.c41s.com



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A gorgeous Gillis London bag!

Enter our exclusive competition - you could win one of three camera bags

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IT'S A shame to buy the best camera body and lens you can afford and then lug it around in a tatty rucksack or courier bag. Far better to keep your precious equipment in a beautifully made, bespoke leather bag, such as those made by Gillis London (www.camerabags.gillislondon.com). And here's your chance to win one for free, as we've teamed up with Gillis London to offer three of the company's superb camera bags, worth a total of £760!



Second prize

Gillis London Messenger Bag

- Vintage leather with sturdy padded adjustable shoulder straps and bespoke metal fittings.
- Quilted detachable tray with Velcro walls.
- Top zipped opening allows for easy access to items in the tray. Back zipped pocket accommodates a 13" laptop.
- Padded bridge for compact tripod.
- Bag fits mirrorless camera, zoom lens, two lenses, smartphone, media cards and personal items.





Third prize

Gillis London Compact Bag

- Vintage leather handcrafted with strong bespoke retro look metal fittings.
- Inside walls lined with Velcro with flexible dividers to protect kit.
- Zipped and open internal pockets.
- Adjustable leather shoulder strap.
- Further front open pocket and back zipped pocket.Accommodates mirrorless
- Accommodates mirrorless camera with standard lens; two compact lenses, filters,

memory card, iPad Mini.



First prize



COMPETITION

Gillis London Rucksack

- Vintage leather with padded adjustable shoulder straps and bespoke hardware.
- Two interchangeable quilted detachable trays, each with flexible quilted dividers.
- Top opening with strong zipper and two metal pullers.
- Inside open pockets allow more storage and the front zipped pocket is perfect for laptops or documents.
- Accommodates a pro DSLR with pro telephoto zoom lens attached, or up to three lenses, flashgun, smartphone, tablet, batteries and personal items.

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning one of these high-quality camera bags is simply visit **www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/gillis** and answer the question below:

Gillis London's camera bags are called 'Trafalgar.' In which major European war was the Battle of Trafalgar?

A First World War B Crimean War C Napoleonic Wars

The first, second and third-prize winners will be drawn at random from the correct entries received after the closing date. Full terms and conditions can be found on the AP website at **www.amateurphotographer.co.uk.**

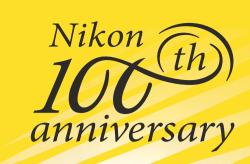
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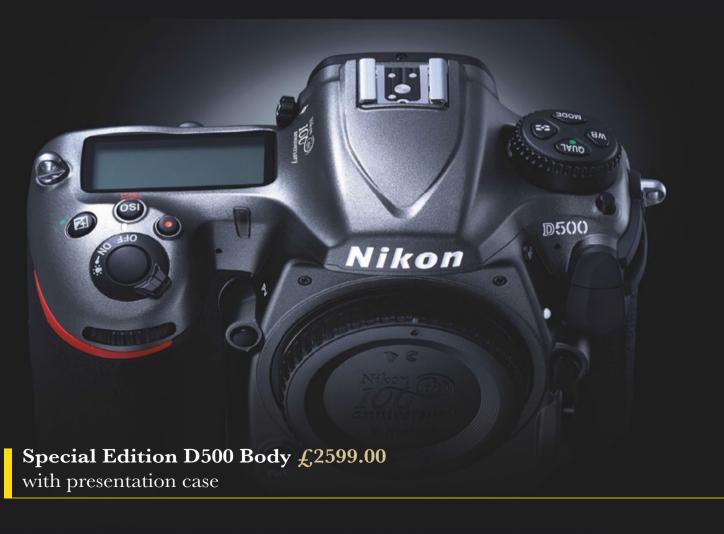
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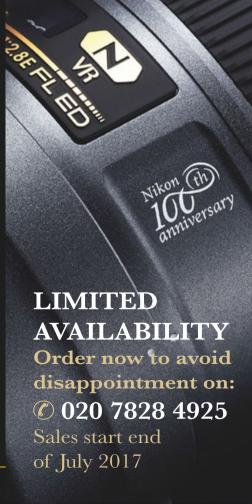
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LOCATION GUIDE

Loch Harport

A boat graveyard on the Isle of Skye offers plenty of scope for shots of peeling paint and old ropes, says **Jeremy Walker**

KIT LIST

▼ 24-70mm zoom lens

A 24-70mm zoom (full frame) is very useful at this sort of location for a variety of shots, from wide views to abstract angles. A 105mm macro lens is ideal for shooting detail and close-up shots.



Lee Stopper filters

It goes without saying that a tripod is useful, especially if you are going to use any of the Lee Filters family of Stopper filters for blur and motion around the boat when the tide comes in.



Midge repellent

At this time of year you need a good midge repellent. Some people swear by Avon Skin So Soft dry oil spray, although I haven't tried it personally.





LOCH HARPORT is a small sheltered sea loch on the western coast of the Isle of Skye, in Scotland. The loch is surrounded by hills, and with the magnificent brooding mass of the famous Cuillins not far in the distance, it's a suitable background for any Skye landscape image. The loch is reached along the B8009 that leads from the picturesque Sligachan to Dunvegan road, signposted Carbost – look for the wonderful 8ft-high scarecrow carving next to the signpost.

The B8009 leads to several worthwhile locations, but your main goal (apart from the Talisker distillery) should be the cemetery just before Merkadale. As you start to ascend the hill it will be 200m below you to your right. There is a small, unmarked, single-track lane that leads to a parking area next to the cemetery. The cemetery is small and well kept but of little photographic interest. Instead, your attention should be directed towards the tidal bay 50m or so east of the car park.

On the shores of this bay you will find the remains of three small boats. You could happily spend a few hours shooting views and close-up details here. As well as the three decaying wrecks, it is worth taking a short walk around the bay to the right of the boats. There is a long fence that runs into the water and this has excellent photographic potential – especially at high tide with a Lee Big Stopper.





Above: Peeling paintwork leads to a striking abstract Nikon D810, 24-70mm, 1/100sec at f/11, ISO 200

Right: At high tide one of the boats fills with water Nikon D810, 24-70mm, 8mins at f/11, ISO 64



Jeremy Walker

Award-winning professional photographer Jeremy Walker has been shooting landscapes, architecture and people for more than 25 years. Visit **www.jeremywalker.co.uk**.

LOCATION GUIDE Technique



Shooting advice

THE BAY, with its slowly decaying boats, is an ideal summertime location, and although you may not want to be shooting a sunrise at 4am or a sunset at 10pm, it's quite possible to shoot when the sun is high and the shadows are harsh. It is a location you may well have to yourself, as the majority of tourists pass by on their way to the distillery. Other photographers head to the more famous (and crowded) Fairy Pools along the Glen Brittle road, a quarter of a mile along the B8009.

To shoot the bay and the one boat still in the water, you need to check the tide timetables. High tide is a must, as the boat fills with water, making it a great subject for long exposures.

Do not dismiss the other two boats, as they lend themselves to macro and abstract images. With their peeling paintwork, textured wood, ropes and an old anchor, there is plenty to shoot in such a small area.

With harsh contrasty light and a high sun, the subject matter on offer lends itself to thinking and shooting in black & white.

Food and lodging

THE ISLE OF SKYE is a major holiday destination, so accommodation can get booked up well in advance of the summer months.

A well-situated spot for many of Skye's photo locations is the Sligachan Hotel, eight miles east of Carbost on the junction of the A87 and A863. There is also a sizeable campsite opposite the hotel. Apart from lodgings, the hotel serves everything from coffees to cooked meals. **Warning** Extreme care should be taken around the boats. They are rotting and may not be stable or safe. Climbing into them is not recommended.

Technique MINIMALISM

In a culture geared towards consumerism, maybe it's worth taking time to focus on creative vision and not fancy gear, says **Simeon Smith**

PICTURES © SIMEON

ome choose minimalism, while others have it thrust upon them. A year or so ago my better half began her own journey into minimalism and at first I dismissed it as faddish and obsessive. However, slowly but surely minimalism has won me over in almost every aspect of my life. It's easy to see why minimalist philosophies are growing in popularity. In a culture that is geared towards consuming, we've quickly found that for the most part buying more things and lining them up on Swedish flat-pack shelves doesn't make us happy.

I mostly shoot film. People accuse me of being either a Luddite, a hipster – or both. In a world of system updates, iPhone launch parties and planned obsolescence, making photographs with limited, purposeful and enduring gear, focusing on community and

excellent artistic output, goes against the grain. Minimalism keeps me focused – focused on learning how to get the best out of limited gear; focused on purposefulness in every element inside the frame; focused on the subject, and serving the image; focused on a creative vision, not on fancy gear I want to try out.

Minimalist gear

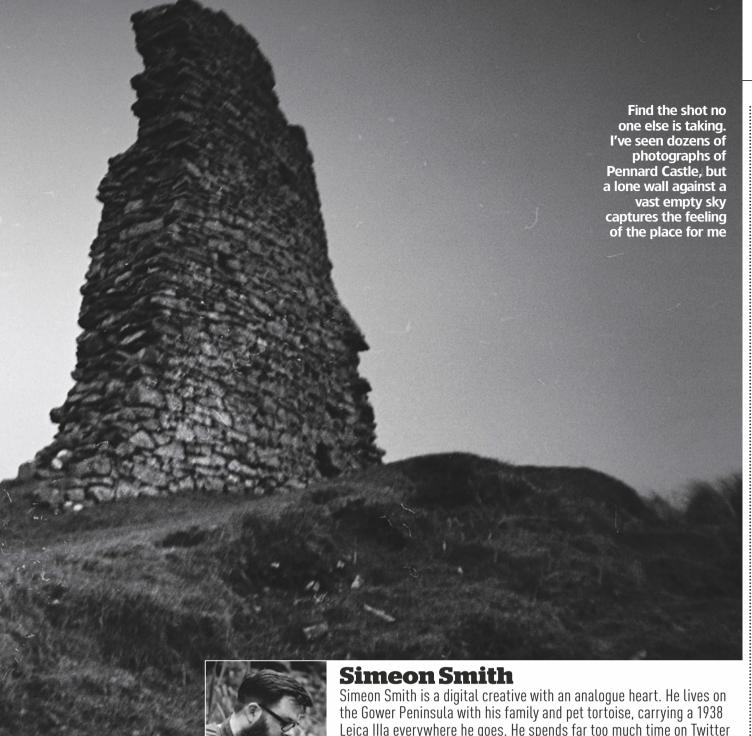
At first, when wanting to approach minimalism in my photography, I felt pretty well versed when it came to the artistic side of things, but when it came to gear, my minimalism idea fell flat on its face. I may have got rid of plenty of unnecessary possessions over the past year, halved my wardrobe, decimated my CD collection, and thoroughly de-cluttered my living space to help me to de-clutter my headspace, but I'm still a massive hoarder of



Portraits don't have to be of a subject's face – try to capture body language

film cameras. I have everything from Holgas to Leicas, and while I love shooting with all kinds of cameras and lenses, I'm always making silly mistakes because I haven't spent enough time with each piece of gear. Each camera has just a few rolls of film put through it before my attention turns to another piece of kit.

I was inspired to take my minimalism with gear more seriously when I saw an interview with Henri Cartier-Bresson. He was asked about his gear, and I was surprised to find out that for almost all of his work he used one camera, a Leica, and one lens, a 50mm prime. Looking at Cartier-Bresson's composition you can



Leica Illa everywhere he goes. He spends far too much time on Twitter and Instagram (his username is @ simeonsmith on both). See his portfolio and blog at www.awonderfulkindofimpossible.co.uk.

see that he knew his field of vision through that set-up so well, and I'd like to suggest it is because he spent decades with the same set-up.

A photographer who takes 'gear minimalism' even further is Daido Moriyama. For much of his street work he uses a Ricoh compact camera. He's been quoted as saying, 'Any camera is fine. It is only the means of taking a photo.' It's easy to see how the simplicity of use of his camera has helped his singular vision, taking shots of scenes other people might have walked past.

I've enjoyed shooting as much with a simple, automatic Lomo LC-A compact as I have with SLRs with multiple lenses and filters. A simpler set-up allows me to be more spontaneous, and to always have my camera on me, taking different photographs than I perhaps would if I were carting much more gear around.

Minimalist technique

You might think you could never get rid of your full complement of L lenses or eight primes at different focal lengths, but minimalism isn't just about using simple gear. It's a philosophy that can be applied to any area of your life or work. I've shed gear through my journey into minimalism, but the biggest impact has been a change in what I look for in my frames.

I try to make my frames subtractive, taking photos of the simplest expression of an idea. I shoot a lot of street photography, and will often shoot a scene, reconsider, and then shoot just one close-up of one element of the scene. Robert Capa is credited with the quote, 'If your photographs aren't good enough, you're not close enough.' Using simple gear and shooting quite close to subjects also forces me to move around a scene, and see

things from different angles. Photojournalist Ernst Haas said, 'The best zoom lens is your legs,' and when getting closer to my subjects I always notice other details or textures I want to bring out in the images I'm making.

Texture is another huge component of my minimalist work. By stripping elements out of the frame, everything left in the frame is left open to scrutiny. The grain in some wood becomes the subject rather than the background. A pattern in some rust takes the main stage rather than being a tiny part of a whole.

Minimalism, however, should serve you, not the other way around. If it's not helping you compose a great photograph, then it's fine to resolutely ignore the philosophy. Simple ideas are best expressed simply, but complex, intricate work can require busyness to truly shine.

ASSIGNMENTS



Get abstract

Make a photo where the subject is unrecognisable. You could use intentional camera movement, long exposure, or just get creative with focus, light and composition.



Move your feet

If you own a wideangle lens, use it exclusively for a week. If you don't, wind your zoom lens all the way in. Your legs are the best zoom lens. Make sure your subject fills the frame, even though this can mean getting uncomfortably close.



Shoot for texture

Create some images that you want to reach into and touch. Keep things as sharp as possible, and shoot up close. Using double exposures can make the mundane otherworldly. Play around with contrast and vignetting in post-production to add interest.



Alternative portraits

What is it that makes your subject unique? Is it their hands? Their posture? Portraits don't need to include the subject's face. They need to capture the essence of the person.



Passing through

Catch people as they enter or leave your viewfinder. Ignore normal composition rules and kick back against the rule of thirds. Some blur, real or added, can provide urgency to this kind of shot.





Get inspired

Don't just look to other photographers for minimalist inspiration – cross-pollinate your creativity with other art forms. I've always loved simplicity as well as clear, bold ideas in all kinds of art. The first time I visited the Tate Modern in London I stood in front of a Rothko for ages taking in every brush stroke.

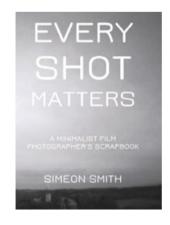
Minimalism in the darkroom

Discovering minimalism has allowed me to experiment more, without fear of inadequate kit or lack of knowledge. The joy of doing the best job I can within certain confines was perhaps most evident when I set up a minimalist darkroom. Instead of spending hours learning how to get to grips with loads of complicated gear, clearing out a room and light-sealing it, I started with a tank, some chemistry and a cheap film scanner in the cupboard under the stairs. I learnt to make contact prints from 6x12 negatives with a windowpane and a desk lamp. I worked after dark, when the lights in the house were off.

Results may vary

It's been about a year since I started taking my wife's suggestions seriously – that maybe I had too much stuff, and more

Motion blur is your friend. Lower your shutter speed and capture the emotion of movement



Every Shot Matters:

A Minimalist Film

Photographer's Scrapbook is an art book by Simeon Smith about creativity and analogue photography. It was produced via a Kickstarter campaign, which was fully funded in just four hours. You can order the book, ISBN 9781389974458, via Amazon or from any good bookshop.

stuff wouldn't make me happier. Around six months ago I started writing about minimalism in my photography. I've found that for me minimalism is:

Pervasive I started looking at minimalism in photography, and before I knew it half my possessions had left the house, my wardrobe had been decimated and my diet had changed.

Infectious I caught it off my wife. Maybe you'll catch it from me.

More than an aesthetic But the aesthetic is pretty damn cool.

Green I was taught the three Rs. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The less you consume, the smaller your footprint will be.

Cheap I'd love to say that I've saved money doing the whole minimalism thing, but I can only say that I've spent it on things that really count.

I guess, for balance, minimalism isn't:

Going to solve problems with materialism I still have an unhealthy relationship with stuff.

Going to make me happy It can only subtract things that make me unhappy.

Going to be easy Our society and culture are geared towards buying and selling things we do not need.

An identity Our value is within ourselves, not our perspective on owning less stuff.

A destination It's a journey. I look around my still-overcrowded studio and sigh in disbelief that the more stuff I get rid of, the more stuff appears. I will get further down this road – join me.

CAMERAS I NO LONGER OWN

If you're not using a camera, give it to someone who will really enjoy experimenting with it. Here are five cameras I no longer own:

Diana Mini

With its beautifully soft lens and amazing light leaks, this is the only half-frame camera I've owned, and while using it my film-processing costs were incredibly low. But it jammed far too often to enjoy shooting with it.

Lomo Cosmic Symbol

My first love may have gone but it's never been forgotten. Some cameras I have let go because someone else could use them better than I could, and this is one such example. The Cosmic Symbol is a great fully manual compact to learn on, but it was time to pass it on to someone who wouldn't just keep it on a shelf.

FED-3 rangefinder

This one started my Leica thread-mount obsession, but with a Leica on the shelf there was no room for it. I wasn't going to shoot with it any more, so I passed it on to someone who would.

Holga 120 TLR

Sometimes I feel like such a gullible sucker. I'm not sure why I felt I needed a waist-level viewfinder on a plastic toy camera, but I bought one anyway, because... well, I wanted it. I took it on holiday to Lake Garda with me, and it hardly left my bag.

Zorki S

This had a beautiful engraving on the top-plate – which is a really stupid reason to own a camera.



It's easy as 1, 2, 3



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Step 2
We'll collect your gear for free



Step 3
Spend your credit and get shooting

Visit www.wex.co.uk/part-ex to submit a quote or call us on 01603 481836 Monday-Friday 8.30am-6pm

Peter Capaldi

Harry Borden looks back on a stressful but successful shoot with the soon-to-be-regenerated Doctor Who

hen I'm commissioned, to shoot a portrait, I'm usually given a free hand to photograph the subject in the way I choose. Editors know the kind of images I'm going to produce, so I simply shoot as wide a range of portraits as I can in the time available.

However, sometimes I'm given a more detailed brief and have to work within certain constraints. When I was asked to photograph the actor Peter Capaldi for the Sunday Times Magazine a few months ago, I was specifically asked for an upright portrait, quite simple and stark, against a white background. The editor also wanted images that referenced Irving Penn's famous 'Corner

Portraits', made in the late 1940s. In this series of images, Penn photographed major figures of the day in a narrow, claustrophobic corner space.

It's always tricky when magazines have an image in mind that the photographer has to somehow emulate, especially when that image is an all-time classic set-up. Penn's pictures were probably taken in a studio lit by beautiful north light and his set would have been a well-crafted permanent fixture. However, when photographing Capaldi, I had to recreate Penn's style in a couple of hours on a *Doctor* Who film set in Cardiff Bay, where the least important thing going on was my photo shoot.

As is often the case, the shoot was very stressful. Everyone

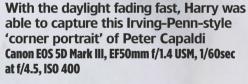
tried to be accommodating, but it was a film set operating to a strict schedule and the people working there were busy. I asked if a set could be built for the pictures and they got two pieces of 8ft tall MDF, fixed them together and sprayed them white. They did their best, but I wanted to use natural daylight, which was already fading on a late afternoon in March. I knew if I had to light these plain, smooth boards with flash it would look terrible, so they weren't suitable at all.

Instead, I looked around and found two canvases on the set. They had a texture to them, so were much better. The DoctorWho art director helped me bolt them together and I put them in a sheltered outdoor area where they were lit by daylight. But Capaldi was delayed and it was getting darker by the minute.

He eventually arrived with an entourage, which included a stylist and a groomer. He had been given a suit to wear and looked very well turned-out. He was also very accommodating and nice to deal with, the complete opposite of the Malcolm Tucker character he played in the BBC series The Thick of It.

However, he looked very tired. While we were talking, he pointed to a hotel across the bay and said that during the week he was on the film set all day, then at night went back to the hotel to learn his lines for the next day. He was only able to go home and see his family at the weekend. This relentless schedule went on for months. I felt quite sorry for him. The financial rewards, and being part of the massive *Doctor Who* legacy, were counterbalanced by the never-ending grind of producing hours of content.

I explained that usually the portraits I shoot are a record of the relationship I have with the







subject, but on this occasion I was in a rush and had to get some pictures before it got dark. He was fine with that. We went to the set I'd made outside and I photographed him with my Canon EOS 5D Mark III. Even pushing the ISO to 400, the shutter speed was 1/60sec – slower than I'd have liked.

After shooting the scenario that relied on natural light, I could relax a bit and brought him inside for a different set-up. I shot him against a piece of distressed plywood I found in the studio, then finished off with some close-in shots against a white backdrop, as the *Sunday Times Magazine* had requested. For those images, I lit him with one softbox from the side and a raw flash head flagged off, so the light just hit the side of his face.

For one of these images, I asked him to close his eyes and raise his eyebrows. I've taken several of these 'eyes wide shut' portraits of my subjects and I find it a very effective and poignant way of shooting people. It opens the face out and gives them a relaxed appearance. In Capaldi's case, it makes him look very different as his big, intense eyes are such a feature of his appearance.

Capaldi was very generous with his time and gave us just over an hour for the shoot. The picture with his eyes shut was converted to black & white and used over a whole page in the *Sunday Times Magazine*. Although he was absolutely beat at the time, it doesn't diminish the power of the shot, and in a way it adds to his craggy, lived-in look. **As told to David Clark**

Harry Borden



Harry Borden is one of the UK's finest portrait photographers. He has won prizes at the World Press Photo awards and

in 2014 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Photographic Society. The National Portrait Gallery holds more than 100 of his images. His new book, Survivor: A Portrait of the Survivors of the Holocaust, is available now.

Reader Portfolio

Spotlight on readers' excellent images and how they captured them



Roberto Pavic, Croatia



As you can see from this selection, Roberto's favoured genre to shoot is landscape photography, particularly when those areas lie close to water. Many of his subjects are nearby rivers, lakes and the ocean. Reflections in the

water, he says, give the landscapes another dimension. Roberto's favourite time to shoot is early in the morning where he can be all alone in a location and experiment with long exposures. His next aim is to tackle Iceland, where he hopes the area will challenge him and hone his skills. www.facebook.com/robertopavicphotography

Misurina, Italy

A great example of
Roberto's ability to
draw out an extra
dimension using the
reflection of Lake
Misurina
Canon EOS 6D,
24-105mm, 0.6secs
at f/22, ISO 50,
tripod, Lee 0.9
soft-edge grad filter

Hallstatt, Austria
While many
photographers prefer
sunny conditions,
here we see just how
beautiful winter
weather can be
Canon EOS 5D Mark
II, 16-35mm, 10secs
at f/22, ISO 50,
tripod, Lee 0.9
soft-edge grad filter



Bled. Slovenia 3 An image of genuinely awesome scale. Using a wideangle lens was a perfect choice for this scene. It really emphasises the scope and breadth of this magnificent location Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 16-35mm, 5secs at f/14, ISO 100, tripod, Lee 0.9 soft-edge grad filter





Manfrotto The Reader Portfolio winner chosen every week will receive a Manfrotto PIXI EVO tripod worth £44.95. Visit www.manfrotto.co.uk

Lightweight and portable, the Manfrotto PIXI EVO boasts two different leg angles with a sliding selector enabling you to shoot ground lovel images. It's adjustable with two section legs featuring five different stops that adapt.

Lightweight and portable, the Manfrotto PIXI EVO boasts two different leg angles with a sliding selector enabling you to shoot ground-level images. It's adjustable, with two-section legs featuring five different steps that adapt the footprint to uneven surfaces. With a payload of 2.5kg, you can tilt the camera 90° to capture incredible images.



pictures' section on page 3 for details or visit www.amateurphotographer. co.uk/portfolio





Bled, Slovenia

Smooth water,
smooth clouds,
diffused light, and
water combine for a
rich and atmospheric
portrait of a gorgeous
Slovenian landscape
Canon EOS 5D Mark
II, 24-105mm,
90secs at f/10, ISO
100, tripod, Lee 0.9
soft-edge grad filter

Laghi di Fusine, Italy

5 Here, Roberto has increased the sky's orange tones to contrast with the blue mountains
Canon EOS 6D,
16-35mm, 1/5sec at f/22, ISO 100, tripod, Lee 0.9 soft-edge grad filter



Building on SUCCESS

While historic buildings are a popular photographic subject, modern structures can look also amazing. Architectural photographer **Janie Airey** explains why she is passionate about clean graphic imagery

lot of readers will have eagerly taken photos of the Shard in London, Selfridges in Birmingham and the Dubai skyline, but what does it take to succeed as a professional photographer of modern architecture? For Janie Airey, one of the UK's most respected specialists in this area,

Below: Longchamp London store Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 16-35mm, 1/640sec at f/2.8, ISO 800

Below right: The Grove, Miami, USA Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, 24-70mm, 1/640sec at f/2.8, ISO 160 it's about having a passion for the subject – or, in her case, a passion for clean graphic imagery with space and good lines.

'The more modern buildings lend themselves to this, and have plenty of natural light or well-designed artificial light,' Janie explains. 'They also reveal innovative approaches to design and shape, and are exciting to capture.'

While modern architecture may seem a challenging subject for any photographer, one of the biggest challenges for Janie is timing.

'As a photographer, you usually get into the building before people move in but after all the "snagging" when contractors are given the chance to rectify faults has been done. So the challenge is to avoid accidentally including workpeople in hi-vis vests up ladders, or plastic protective coverings that are only removed at the last minute.'

And then, of course, there is the great British weather.

'Even if both of these elements are against you, it's always possible to get something from the shoot,' Janie asserts. 'However, you may have to make it the day when you spend time doing more detailed shots, and then go back to get the wider shots.'

Savvy marketing

There are a lot of architecture photographers out there, so how, we wondered, does Janie make her work stand out from the crowd and attract new clients?

'A good website is a *must*,' she







The Bower Building, Stockley Park, London Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, 70-200mm, 1/200sec at f/5.6, ISO 800





emphasises. 'Don't overcrowd it, though. You don't have to show everything, as it's an introduction. Be active on social media, too, but again, don't overdo it. I'm a member of the Association of Photographers, which clients can use as a resource to find new photographers.'

As Janie explains, smart marketing is crucial for any photographer.

'I send the occasional mail-out of postcards, and I've even had a newspaper printed with images and text that I sent to relevant architects. I intersperse commissions with personal projects, as it keeps your work fresh and current.'

While you don't need to be a trained architect, Janie insists that architecture has to interest or excite you – or why bother to shoot it?

'I learn as I go, and if you're spending a day with an architect capturing their building, it's good to know something about what they're trying to achieve,' she says.

Who needs tilt and shift?

A lot of specialist gear is targeted at architectural photographers, such as expensive tilt-and-shift lenses, but Janie reckons they aren't always necessary.

'Most architectural photographers use tilt-and-shift lenses, but I don't,' she says. 'You can see it in my work, but I don't mind as I like approaching architectural photography in a slightly different way.'

This streamlined approach also informs how Janie shoots.

'I don't spend ages setting up one "definitive shot" from a tripod,' she says. 'Rather, I move around a lot, and shoot instinctively. The light may "pop" or reflect off something, and you've got five minutes to capture it. I treat photographing a building a bit like telling the story of the building – as if it

Janie Airey's top tips

Tell the story of the building. So as well as your safe wide shots, capture details or interesting elements either up close on a wide lens, or far away and zoom in to flatten them out.

Think about where you're shooting from. Don't just stand and shoot from where your head height is. Get up high or lie down. The more you move around, the more you'll see.

I like simplicity – don't make an image too busy. Viewers need breathing space, too.

Really think about the light. It's crucial to understand how it translates two-dimensionally. Some buildings suit bright, harsh light and others a grey, flat sky. Try different approaches, and when you're happy with the result remember it and use the technique again. In that way you start to build up a style of your own and your work will sit comfortably together on your website or gallery. Keep it fairly simple and your work will start to gel.

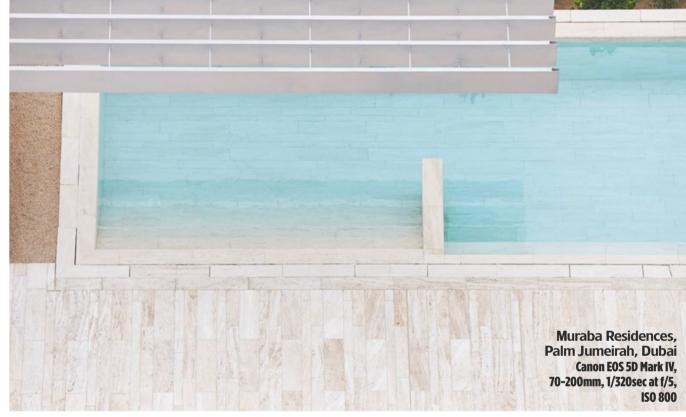
Composition is key, obviously within the image but also in how you present your work or the story of the building as a whole. Think about how you lead the eye into an image with diagonals or space. When you present the project, make sure you present the images in a coherent sequence.

For maximum detail, shoot raw if you can. I like Capture One as it enables you to pull out shadows, take down highlights and tweak colour balance, among other things, to maximise the finished photo.

The Grove, Grand Bay, Miami, USA Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, 70-200mm, 1/500sec at f/5, ISO 320







was for an editorial story.'
Good light is obviously
crucial to great architectural
photography, but being a jobbing
pro, Janie has to be prepared to
work at any time of day and at
any time of year.

'I'm happy at any time,' she says. 'If the light is too harsh on one side of the building, then I will move round to the other side. There will always be something to capture. I like clean light, so I guess if I had to choose I'd start very early to capture morning light.'

The importance of a recce

A key part of Janie's approach involves walking around a building to get a feel for it and how it is used, but time is not always on her side.

'If possible, I'll try to look around before I start shooting' she adds. 'It helps to work out where you may get good vantage points to capture the wide shots, which the client may not



Award-winning London-based photographer
Janie Airey has been shooting commercially for 16 years and specialises in modern architecture. See www. aireyspaces.com.
A new book featuring Janie's images, called Unseen London, will be available from 26 October, published by Hoxton Press.

have thought of. This may involve getting access permissions if it's from another building. So a recce is invaluable, and it really helps to work out the light and activity around the space.

'Most of the time this is a luxury, though, and you have to just get in and work instinctively. But you generally have someone with you who has worked on the build, and who knows the space inside out.'

Janie has worked all over the world, but reckons there are still lots of buildings she is itching to shoot.

'I'm currently obsessing about quite high-density urban living environments that have great green spaces built into the buildings and rooftops,' she says. 'I'm hoping to do a personal project in Singapore in the autumn to capture how they do it so well. I'd also like to photograph Calatrava's New York transport hub, or anything by the amazing Zaha Hadid.'





Visitors heard from experts including AP's Nigel Atherton and Jon Bentley

Welcome

The Park Cameras Imaging Festival, which took place earlier this year at the firm's Burgess Hill and central London stores, attracted some 1,600 visitors.

Keen not only to get their hands on the latest kit from the photography world's top manufacturers, visitors also flocked to the numerous free talks on offer. Covering everything from how to get started with Lightroom, and introductions to the likes of landscape and macro photography, there were also presentations from various ambassadors for brands such as Canon, Fujifilm, Sony, Panasonic and Olympus.

If you weren't able to get to the Imaging Festival, don't worry, because we're bringing the best of it to you. On the following pages, you'll get the chance to learn from each of the brand ambassadors who were on hand during the day, as well as hear their top tips and discover the kit they use to achieve their pictures.

Turn to the back page to read more about the kit that got visitors excited - and watch this space for next year's Park Cameras Imaging Festival dates!

SPONSORED BY







Sleeping beauty

On a shoot in a cold, draughty country house, photographer Wayne Johns reimagines a legendary fairy tale



Wayne Johns

Fashion, beauty and advertising photographer Wayne Johns has been working in the industry for 25 years. An ambassador for Fujifilm, he's worked

with the likes of Coca-Cola. Marie Claire and L'Oréal. www.waynejohns.com

THIS image was shot with a prototype of the new Fujifilm GFX 50S mediumformat camera, and was one of the first shoots to take place in the UK with that camera. At the time, it was far from complete in many ways. It lacked several functions and the focusing had a mind of its own but even so, it was beautiful to shoot with.

The concept for this image was the story of Sleeping Beauty, with a modern edge. We shot it on location in a country house but what you can't tell is that there was no heating. In between shots, we had to warm up the model using hairdryers.

The lighting was a mix of daylight and flash. The sun was coming through windows to the right, while the light on the chest of drawers came from an open door behind. Shutters on the windows funnelled the light through. The sunlight was very strong for a short period of time, giving a lot of brightness to one side, which drops off into shadow very quickly on the other. It was actually a very dark scene, although it doesn't look it from the shot.

I balanced the daylight with flash, using a Bowens Lumiair Octobox 90 above and to the right of the frame, to give some shadow direction on the model's face. An Octobox 70, almost directly behind the camera, gave a soft fill so that the shadows didn't fall off into complete darkness. I used diffusers on both lights to keep things soft.

There were strong winds outside and the clouds were moving fast, so the light kept changing. I had to keep an eye on things and grab the shot when the scene looked at its best, otherwise the ambient light I had exposed for would have been out of balance.

Wayne's top tip

Approach your shoot as a story, asking your model, or models, to act rather than pose, which can look a bit rigid. When they start to act, you get a lot more emotion and expression in the face, and their body language follows. Give them a start point and an end point, and track the subtle changes with your camera.

MY FAVOURITE KIT



Fuiifilm GFX 50S

Mirrorless medium format is a whole new realm of technology. The GFX 50S weighs less than a Canon EOS-5D but is jam-packed with features. The Fujinon glass is out of this world, but you can also use old lenses on it with adapters.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £5,999

Manfrotto Pro Light Reloader-55 PL

The amount of kit I have means I need a roller bag to transport it easily. This version from Manfrotto keeps it all safe and easily accessible.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE:



Gitzo GT3543LS Systematic \

This tripod may look big and heavy but it's carbon fibre, so is very light. As far as heads go, I like Gitzo's Center Ball Head series. so opted for the new GH3382QD (£369), which is wonderfully smooth and

PARK **CAMERAS** PRICE: £674





Gavin Hoey



Most of Gavin's time is taken up shooting educational videos for AdoramaTV on YouTube, a channel with some 600,000 followers. An Olympus ambassador, he also shoots his own videos and runs workshops. www.gavtrain.com

MY FAVOURITE KIT

Olympus OM-D E-M1 Mark II ▶

I use no other camera. The in-body stabilisation is superb — I can shoot at incredibly slow shutter speeds and still get sharp



shots. The 121 AF points are invaluable for getting the focus point right on my sitter's eye.

PARK CAMERAS PRÍCE: £1,849

SanDisk 32GB Extreme Pro SDHC UHS-II [¬]



I learnt the hard way that you need fast memory cards. This one has very little lag – it doesn't spend ages writing to the memory card, and images are much faster to download from it.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £24.99

Sekonic L-308S Flashmate >

This is Sekonic's smallest, lightest and most basic meter, and it's fabulous. It's no-frills and is ultra-reliable. I've had mine for years and couldn't live without it.



Kerry, Gatwick Aviation Museum

A themed portrait shoot meant **Gavin Hoey** could try out a long-awaited, high-speed sync flash unit

THIS image was part of a tutorial on portrait photography I shot for AdoramaTV. Once I've finished a video, I always shoot a few more images for myself. It gives me the opportunity to have a bit of fun, as well as test myself, the location and the lighting.

I volunteer as a photographer at the Gatwick Aviation Museum, so I get to use the facilities, too. It has a collection of vintage aircraft, hence the look of the model. Most of my portraits aren't straight head shots -I like to work to a theme, and style everything accordingly. The influence for this image was Amelia Earhart. Aircraft aficionados will be able to tell that the plane in the picture is from the wrong era, but I like to use a bit of artistic licence...

From a photographic perspective, the most important thing about this image is that I shot it using high-speed sync (HSS) flash – the Godox AD600. This is something that has only recently become available to Olympus users and I've been waiting impatiently for it to come along. For a shoot such as this, it means I can go beyond the restrictive standard flash-sync shutter speed of 1/250sec and push my Olympus OM-D E-M1 Mark II all the way to its maximum

shutter speed of 1/8,000sec. I can then shoot wide open at f/2.8 and get the sort of creamy, out-of-focus background that you see here, with the HSS flash lighting the model and the ambient light illuminating the background.

The flash is simply a single light with a 1m round softbox, placed to the side of the model and at an angle of around 45 degrees. When metering, I underexposed the background by about one stop in order to retain detail in the sky, while a softbox fills in any shadows and softens the appearance of the model's skin.

Once I'd loaded the raw file into Photoshop, I warmed up the colours a little, increased the vibrance and pulled the clarity down a touch.

Gavin's top tip

Props can make a huge difference to a portrait shoot, helping to lift it from an ordinary people shot to something that tells a story. Not only that but a prop also gives the model something to interact with. There are images from this shoot where Kerry is holding the camera or the goggles, giving her something to do with her hands. The camera came from a car-boot sale. It's always worth visiting these, and scouring charity shops, too, for interesting finds.



Radio telescopes, Sierra Nevada

Winter in the Sierra Nevada gave **David Clapp** images of futuristic-looking radio telescopes

I WAS on a trip to California's Sierra Nevada and one evening, while descending from the ancient bristlecone pine forest, I spotted this radio telescope. After seeking permission, I was given clearance to photograph it.

Crucial to the success of this image is the use of the Canon TS-E 24mm f/3.5L II tilt-shift lens, which helped correctly convey the verticals. This lens has such a large image circle that when you raise it to correct the verticals, the image stays sharp right to the edges of the frame. The foreground-tobackground sharpness is a result of pulling the focus slightly back from infinity, which is something that increases depth of field.

When shooting at night, the maximum ISO you'd want to go to with the Canon EOS 5D Mark IV is ISO 6400. Five years ago, I wouldn't have been able to go beyond ISO 800 at night, so this is a huge improvement for me.

Timing is critical when photographing something like the Milky Way, as the most successful images will be achieved in the period just before astronomical twilight ends. You can't really see it with the naked eye but it's around two to three hours before sunrise. At this time of night, you'll be able to depict the Milky Way very clearly, and

there will be a soft magenta or dark-blue tone in the sky. This is the best time to strike, as it's far more evocative.

Obviously, in this image there's some ambient light, too. The structures are lit by a building about 100m away, in which the lights had been left on for me. In addition, I carried out some painting with light. A bright light would have been too much, so I used a torch in which the battery was almost flat. An alternative would have been to cover it with a handkerchief or lens cloth. As the exposure was 25 seconds long, it gave me time to run into the scene, use the torch and run out again without being recorded.

David's top tip

It's important to understand the limits of your camera's ISO capabilities. Test its performance by doing a local night shoot. Begin by setting the camera to a wide aperture (f/2.8 is perfect) and push the ISO one whole step at a time, to ISO 3200, then 6400. The EOS 5D Mark IV I used in this image works superbly up to 6400 but from here on, noise begins to overwhelm the benefits. Remember, cameras perform even better in good light, so don't test your ISO limits in the daytime.

David Clapp



Landscape, travel and architectural photographer David Clapp is regularly commissioned to produce images for the likes of AA Travel and Visit Britain. He's a Canon ambassador, and also runs workshops.

www.davidclapp.co.uk

MY FAVOURITE KIT

Canon EOS 5D Mark IV

This is an absolute leader in its field and is so versatile, it does the work of two cameras. Now I have everything I need in one

camera body. The files are extraordinarily good and the colour is just magical.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £3.349

Canon TS-E 24mm f/3.5L II

I have used this lens so much. I've had to have it rebuilt. Whether I'm shooting landscapes, coastal work, architecture or stitched panoramas, its sharpness is exemplary.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £1,689

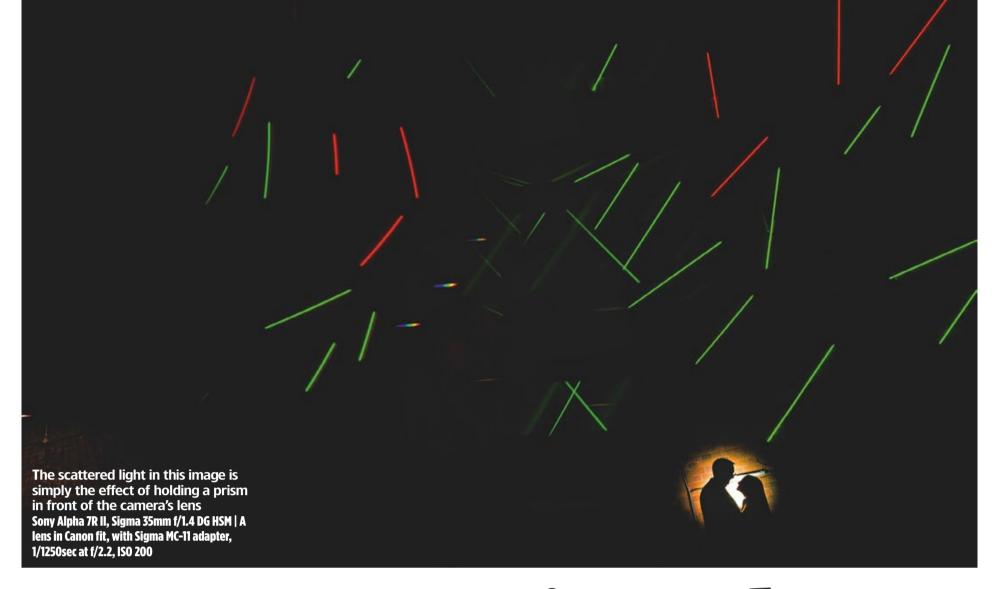
Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM ▶

Used with a 1.4x converter, this lens reaches 560mm, or attach it to an EOS M5 with the same converter to get the equivalent of an 892mm focal length. Incredible!

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £1.789







Will Stedman



Will Stedman shot his first wedding when he was 17 years old (he's now 22). He shoots numerous weddings each year, both in the UK and overseas, and has been a Sony ambassador since late 2016. www.willstedman.com

MY FAVOURITE KIT

Sony Alpha 7R II ▶

I love this camera it's highly customisable and has an awesome dynamic range. The



42.2MP resolution means if I want to push pixels around and sort out people's skin, I can.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £2,499

Sigma 35mm f/1.4 DG HSM | A ▼



I bought this lens as soon as people started raving about it.
I use it wide open a lot, as being able to shoot at f/1.4 is important for me. It's a tank of a lens with a fast autofocus.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: From £599

Sony FE 24-70mm f/2.8 GM ▶

I use this a lot for commercial work. When shooting with the Alpha 7R II, using face detect, I can lock the autofocus on to a bride's face as she walks down the aisle and track-focus the whole way. In sticky situations, it's the one I go for.

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £1,899



Harriet and Matt

Seeing locations in a new way is a speciality for fast-rising wedding photographer **Will Stedman**

IF POSSIBLE, I like to do an engagement session with all the couples whose wedding I photograph. They're great fun and not only do they give me a chance to get to know the couple but they also allow me to try things I wouldn't otherwise. It's real run-and-gun stuff – and these guys ended up with 93 different images from the four-hour session.

I tend to do these sessions just before and at sunset, then finish in darkness. This image was shot towards the end of the session at the Oxo Tower on London's South Bank. I wanted to make the most of the neon lights that come on after dark. Initially, I backlit the couple, placing the flash behind them, but some of the light bounced back onto the wall and lit it up, which didn't look right. I decided to silhouette them, so I turned the flash — a Godox TT600 — towards the wall, fitted it with a MagMod grid, and placed a Colour Temperature Orange between the flash and the grid to give a warm tone.

The neon lights were above and to the right of the couple, but the area on the left of the frame was completely black. To create interest in that part of the scene, I pulled out a simple prism from my camera bag. It's just a few centimetres long and you can buy them cheaply on eBay. Held up to the camera's lens, the prism bounced the neon lights around, so they filled the frame. This is where the Sony Alpha 7R II I use is so invaluable, as

it takes away all the guesswork and allows me to see exactly what I'm shooting – something that isn't possible with a DSLR. So I simply rotated the prism until I got the effect I was after, and took the shot. There's almost no post–production with this image; all I did was increase the contrast and saturation a little.

In terms of exposure, it was a case of getting the neon lights right, and I introduced the flash after that. When it comes to flash, it's about looking at the ambient light and working out how to make the couple pop out. Sometimes it's a case of complementing the ambient light, while on others it's about creating something you wouldn't see with the naked eye.

Will's top tip

Use objects around you to hold in front of the lens and add dynamic interest to a scene. They help to add depth, remove distractions and aid the composition. It could be a water bottle, a prism — as with the picture shown here — fairy lights, or even the edge of your phone. Alternatively, go to the sample wallpapers on your phone and select one of the hues or gradients, fill the frame with it and take an out-of-focus shot. You can then use this to make a double exposure to add a wash of colour to a scene that might not have much of it.



Ferry, Istanbul

While his friends went off sightseeing, Jacob **James** hopped between ferries on the Bosphorus

WHEN I travel to countries outside the UK. it's nearly always the people that interest me most – their differences but, more often, their similarities. On this trip to Istanbul, I started off taking pictures randomly but I then became fascinated with the ferries that travel to and fro across the Bosphorus, with people going about their day-to-day lives. To them, it's ordinary but to me it was fascinating. I was with a couple of friends, and they would go off shopping while I rode the ferries taking pictures.

This particular ferry was one of the older ones, so it wasn't as brightly lit as some of the others but was more atmospheric. I sat at the back corner of the boat, away from the main sources of artificial light, and when I turned round I saw the famous skyline of Istanbul's Blue Mosque appearing through the window. The young girl, studiously working, created an interesting contrast with the scene outside. I metered for the highlights, so that the buildings through the window were accurately exposed, and shot with the light falling on her.

Compositionally, I kept things simple, with the window on one side and the girl kept roughly within the bottom-right third. It was simply a case of leaning over my seat and taking two or three shots before the mosque disappeared. Without it, the image would have been lost.

One of my favourite features of Panasonic cameras is their silent shutter, a feature that's

perfect for situations such as this. I could simply turn around, look out of the window and click. As long as you're subtle about it, it doesn't disturb anyone. If someone spots me taking their picture, I just smile and act normally, and 99% of the time it's fine. If you're not comfortable, people pick up on it, but if you're confident there's rarely an issue. If there were, I'd simply delete the picture.

Almost all my street photography is taken with the Panasonic Leica 15mm f/1.7 lens, which renders light and colour really nicely. More often than not, I shoot with it wide open, as the fall-off is attractive and not too intense. Roughly 28mm in full-frame terms, it's a lens that forces you to get close, and therefore a bit uncomfortable. Pushing yourself outside your comfort zone in street photography is, within reason, nearly always a good thing.

Jacob's top tip

It's a bit of a cliché but good street photography is all about getting closer and drawing your viewer in. Once I learned that, it was a huge turning point in my photography. It definitely takes practice particularly if, like me, you're rather reserved. However, it does mean that when you see the final image, you feel less like a voyeur and more as if you're actually within the scene.

Jacob James



A self-taught photographer, Jacob was bitten by the travel bug early on. Now an ambassador for Panasonic, he continues to travel widely, as well as giving talks, writing for magazines and running workshops.

iacobiamesphotography.co.uk

MY FAVOURITE KIT

Panasonic > Lumix DMC-GX8

This camera's touch focusing is intuitive and the viewfinder is amazing. When it came out, the quality of the files

was a step up from other Micro Four Thirds. PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £799 (with G Vario 12-60mm f/3.5-5.6 lens)

Panasonic Leica DG Summilux 15mm f/1.7 ASPH lens



I shoot 95% of my work with this lens. The sharpness wide open at f/1.7 is excellent. It's tiny and weighs only 115g, so you barely notice it's there. PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £429

Panasonic Leica DG Nocticron 42.5mm f/1.2 ASPH lens

If I'm taking a straight portrait, I use this. At f/1.2, you can shoot in low light and make the person's eyes really pop, while the background falls away

PARK CAMERAS PRICE: £1,199









Top kit picks

Find out which kit whetted the appetites of visitors to the Park Cameras Imaging Festival...



Olympus OM-D E-M1 Mk II

A mirrorless camera that opens up wildlife and sports photography to MFT users? Sounds too good to be true. However, it's hugely popular with Park Cameras' customers, and is the perfect complement to the Olympus 300mm PRO lens.



Nikon D500

With its powerful autofocus system, EXPEED 5 image-processing engine, 4K video capability and incredibly high ISO range, the Nikon D500 combines power with performance to guarantee stunning image quality across all applications.



Panasonic Leica DG Vario-Elmar 100-400mm f/4.0-6.3 ASPH

This lens is a welcome addition to the Micro Four Thirds lens world, offering a 200–800mm equivalent focal length. Fast, silent AF and strong optical quality make this a perfect partner to Panasonic's 4K-capable Lumix G cameras.

Sigma 85mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art

The 85mm lens is ideal for portrait photographers, while fast apertures give great low-light pictures and excellent bokeh. Sigma may not have been attempting anything new here, but this highly specified lens comes at a lower price than those by other manufacturers. And being part of the Art range means the optical quality is of the highest calibre.



Tamron 18-400mm F/3.5-6.3 Di II VC HLD

New lenses tend to come with all sorts of acronyms, but while they can appear impressive, they're usually new iterations of existing focal lengths or ranges. This lens is different. With a unique focal range of 18-400mm (equivalent to 27-600mm on Nikon APS-C DSLRs), it takes you through the spectrum of focal lengths from wideangle to ultra-telephoto.



DJI Mavic Pro

The first thing to strike you about the DJI Mavic Pro is the size. Given that much of it is foldable, it is the ultimate Transformer toy for adults. The form isn't the only amazing thing about the Mavic - although it genuinely can just be chucked in a bag alongside the also foldable remote control. It has a 40mph top speed, a camera capable of both 4K video and 12MP raw images, and a 27-minute flying time, all enhanced by the smartphone app from DJI. This lets you work with the remote control for live view of the Mavic's camera.



Canon EOS 5D Mark IV

This was always going to be a tricky release for Canon, with the 5D Mark III being such a fantastic all-rounder. With great power comes great responsibility, and Canon didn't disappoint with the exceptional 30.4MP sensor, combined with the image processor found in the Canon EOS-1D X Mark II.



Fujifilm X-T2

The X-T2 was the first Fuji camera to have 4K video-recording capabilities, and the updated EVF helped to eradicate some of those fears of input lag with a 60fps refresh rate. The vastly improved ISO range makes it a much more viable camera in poorer lighting conditions. The Vertical Power





Sony RX10 Mark III

This camera was released to sit alongside the already popular Sony RX10 II. The main difference between the two is the significant boost that's been given to the excellent ZEISS-designed optics. The newer version has a 25x optical zoom, giving it a focal range equivalent to 24-600mm in full frame. Going from ultra-wide to super telephoto at the flick of a button, with a maximum aperture range of f/2.4-4, requires some very impressive optical and technical brains - and image quality is enhanced by the 1in sensor within.



The Manfrotto Befree Live tripod combines two highly capable products: compact yet durable aluminium legs, sitting below the highly lauded MVH400AH Live Fluid Head – the latter being the lightest and smallest of the video heads manufactured by Manfrotto. It is the ideal choice for a travel videographer where size is important, and with mighty mousestrength capabilities in the head, where its 400g weight can handle a 4kg payload.

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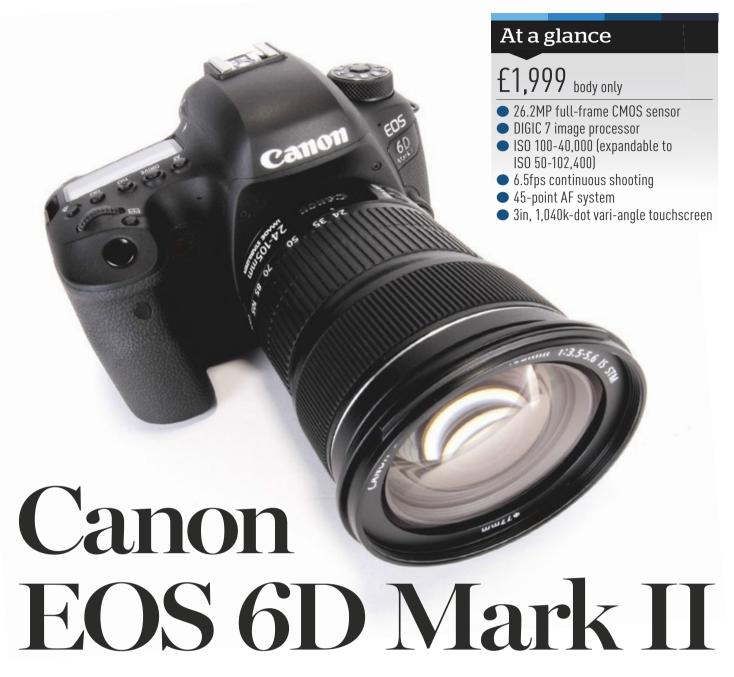












It's been a long time in the making, but the replacement for the **EOS 6D** is finally here. **Michael Topham** puts Canon's latest full-frame offering through its paces

For and against





5-axis movie image stabilisation

Excellent battery life

Lacks 4K video or headphone port for audio monitoring

Requires a new BG-E21 battery grip

AF points grouped together very centrally in the frame

Exposure compensation is awkward to use with Auto ISO in manual-exposure mode

Data file

CMOS sensor **Output size** 6.240x4.160pixels Focal length mag Lens mount Canon EF mount Shutter speeds 30-1/4,000sec, bulb 100-40,000 (expandable to IS0 50-102,400) Metering system sensor

Exposure comp increments

144.0x110.5x74.8mm

765g (including battery and card)

Drive Video

Viewfinder

Display

Memory card

Power

Dimensions Weight

26.2-million-pixel full-frame 7,560-pixel RGB+IR metering +/-5 EV in 1/3 or 1/2 stop 6.5fps Full HD (60/50/30/25/24p) Pentaprism with approx 98% coverage 3in, 1,040k-dot vari-angle touchscreen SD/SDXC/SDHC (UHS-I compatible) LP-E6N rechargeable Li-ion battery

hen the original Canon EOS 6D arrived on the scene, it quickly became popular with enthusiast photographers looking to take their first steps into full-frame photography. Few would have imagined it would take more than four years for Canon to release a successor. However, the EOS 6D Mark II is now here. Positioned below the EOS 5D Mark IV and above the EOS 7D Mark II, it enters the market with a price tag of £1,999.99 (body only), and is a whopping £1,350 cheaper than the EOS 5D Mark IV. Not only that, but it costs £200 less than the original EOS 6D did at launch.

Features

The EOS 6D's 20.2MP full-frame CMOS sensor has been replaced by a new 26.2MP full-frame

CMOS chip that hasn't been seen before in an EOS model. Compared to its predecessor, which offered a native ISO range of 100-25.600, the Mark II now shoots across a broader ISO 100-40,000 range, which is expandable to ISO 50-102,400. As with other recent Canon

DSLRs, the new sensor teams up with the DIGIC 7 image processor. This promises improvements to both image quality and speed of performance, and the camera can now shoot a continuous burst at up of 6.5fps – 2fps faster than its predecessor. Canon claims it can sustain a burst of 150 JPEGs, or 21 raw files at 6.5fps.

There are also speed gains in live view thanks to the integration of Canon's Dual Pixel CMOS AF technology. For those unfamiliar with Dual Pixel CMOS AF, it's a sensor-based, phase-detection





autofocus system that works by splitting all the effective pixels on the surface of the sensor into two individual photodiodes – one for left and one for right. Each of these photodiodes can be read separately, allowing faster phase-detection autofocus while simultaneously being used for image capture. As well as providing high-performance Servo AF tracking and smoother focusing, it rules out the sluggish autofocus performance in live view mode that's associated with older Canon DSLRs.

The EOS 6D Mark II's revised AF system is considerably more advanced than the 11-point AF system with one cross-type point that's on the original EOS 6D. This latest model inherits the 45-point all-cross-type AF system from the EOS 80D. Out of the 45 AF points on offer, 27 are f/8

compatible, with the centre point sensitive down to f/2.8. The working range of the AF system is just the same as before, however, and is sensitive to –3EV to 18EV.

The camera's metering is left in the capable hands of a 7,560-pixel RGB IR metering sensor. We've seen this used before in the likes of the EOS 77D and it has proven to be reliable at delivering consistently accurate exposures. To counteract the rapid on/off pulsing you can get with some artificial lights, the camera also inherits Canon's anti-flicker technology that first made its debut in the EOS 7D Mark II.

Wi-Fi and NFC connectivity is built into the camera, offering photographers the freedom to control it wirelessly from a device that's running Canon's Camera Connect app. There's also Bluetooth connectivity to form a permanent connection to a smartphone. It allows your phone to be used as a remote control at any time, without having to mess around setting up a Wi-Fi connection between devices.

The Bluetooth connection can also instruct the camera to fire up its Wi-Fi for when you want to copy images across to your phone, or use full remote control with live view. One further feature of note is the 6D's built-in GPS functionality, which can be used to geotag images with GPS coordinates.

Build and handling

If you're familiar with the size and weight of an EOS 5D model, you'll instantly become aware of the 6D Mark II's compact stature and slightly different feel in the hand. Although the handgrip isn't quite as large as an EOS 5D model and the leather-effect finish doesn't

extend all the way around the side of the body, it feels comfortable and gives a solid grip when using the camera with long, heavy lenses.

Compared to the original EOS 6D, the new version's dimensions are a fraction smaller, which means the older BG-E13 battery grip is no longer compatible. Those who'd like to improve handling in the portrait format and increase the camera's stamina by powering it with a pair of LP-E6N batteries will need to buy the new BG-E21 battery grip (£199).

The chassis of the camera is made from aluminium alloy and polycarbonate resin with glass fibre, whereas the body is polycarbonate resin with special conductive fibre and glass fibre in some areas. Knowing the camera is likely to appeal to those who like to use it where the going gets tough, Canon has made



4K time-lapse mode

THE EOS 6D Mark II is the first Canon DSLR to offer a 4K time-lapse movie mode with a built-in intervalometer. This mode is located from the menu settings in live view and after selecting the resolution you can set your preferred interval time by hours, minutes and seconds. As well as being able to manually enter the number of shots you'd like to capture, you're given other options such as keeping the exposure fixed from the first frame, disabling the beep as an image is taken and controlling the LCD auto off function. As I discovered, there's no better way of learning how this creative movie mode works than giving it a try. The camera automatically calculates the

duration of the time-lapse and playback time based on the interval and number of shots you select, which is helpfully displayed at the bottom of the time-lapse movie menu settings.

Getting started couldn't be easier. You're prompted to set and test your exposure settings before hitting the start-stop button followed by the shutter button to start the time-lapse. After the time-lapse has ended, the camera automatically disables the time-lapse movie mode and merges the recorded frames together to create a movie (.mov) file that can then be reviewed in playback. It's a powerful, easy-to-use feature that's capable of producing striking results.

the body dust and drip resistant. It's not weather sealed to the same standard as the EOS 5D Mark IV, but it survived a brief rain shower and had no problem keeping moisture at bay when I used it in damp Scottish conditions.

Generally speaking, the camera is just as easy to operate as the original. A lot of this comes down to their button placement being virtually identical. The on/off switch sits on the left shoulder of the body, just below the mode dial, and you get advanced controls such as an AF-ON button to perform back-button focusing. Other buttons on the top plate let you access AF modes, drive modes, ISO and metering modes. However, the camera does lack a button to take control of exposure compensation. In program, shutter-priority and aperturepriority modes, the rear scroll dial is used to control this, but it's possible to knock the dial accidentally if you don't use the lock switch beneath. However if you want to combine exposure compensation with Auto ISO in manual mode, you're forced to go into the main menu or quick menu, which is a bit of a faff. It is possible to reassign a button to exposure compensation, but it would have been preferable for Canon to merge it with the ISO button, as on the EOS 5D series.

Another difference between this camera and the EOS 5D series is

that the 6D Mark II lacks an intuitive joystick controller to nudge the AF point around the frame with your thumb. This is ditched in preference of an eight-way directional pad inset within a rotating rear command wheel, which now has a finer knurled texture. A new addition to the body is the small button that's located between the shutter button and top plate dial. It's used to toggle through the AF point selection choices and makes them easier and faster to get to.

The camera's single SD card slot rules out any possibility of backing up files to a second card, spilling over to a second card when one becomes full, or assigning one card to the purpose of stills recording and the other to video. If these are essential for your type of work, you'll be better off looking at the EOS 5D Mark III or IV.

Viewfinder and screen

Another significant advantage the camera has over many other full-frame DSLRs is its 3in, 1,040k-dot vari-angle touchscreen. Such a screen on a Canon full-frame DSLR has been a long time coming, and having the option of pulling the screen out and tilting it to your preferred angle gives it a distinct advantage over a fixed screen when attempting to shoot from tricky angles. Many 5D-series users will envy this, but as Canon has told us before, a compromise would have



to be made in terms of weather resistance if this feature were to be introduced to a 5D-series camera. In typical fashion, the touchscreen is incredibly responsive and reacts to the lightest of touches when it's used to navigate the menus or zoom and swipe through images in playback mode. There is the option to increase the sensitivity from the menu, but there's usually little gain to be had from doing so. If controlling a camera via the screen isn't for you, it can be disabled altogether from the touch control settings.

An optical viewfinder provides 98% coverage and 0.71x magnification. As well as revealing all the usual exposure and AF information, it can be set up to display the drive mode, battery level, alert symbol, flicker detection and image quality.

Autofocus

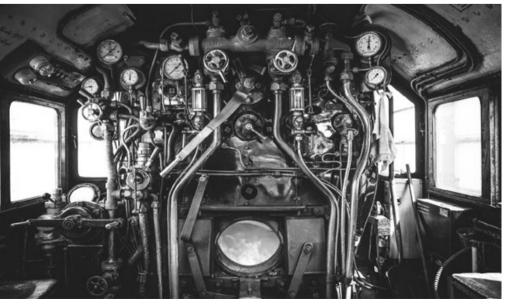
The number of autofocus points has increased by 34 compared to the original. While this is quite a jump, they are grouped closely to each other in the centre of the frame and don't cover as wide an area as the 61 points you get on the EOS 5D Mark III or Mark IV. The central group of 15 AF points is arranged in a 3x5 grid with the top and bottom line sitting a fraction higher than the two groups of 15 AF points either side. By default, repositioning the AF point requires you to press a button on the corner of the body first, but the multi-controller can be re-assigned to select the AF point directly, which is quicker and easier. The acquisition speed of the autofocus seems fast enough when tested in isolation, but a side-by-side comparison with the

EOS 5D Mark IV in low light with both set to AI Servo highlighted that the 6D Mark II is marginally slower than its big brother.

Switch to live view and you'll see a vast improvement over the original, thanks to the integration of Dual Pixel AF. There's no more waiting around for the camera to lock on to a subject, and no sooner have you half depressed the shutter button than the AF beeps to acknowledge correct focus has been achieved. This completely transforms the experience of shooting in live view. The way you're given options over selecting continuous autofocus (Al Servo) and three AF methods means the camera can be used in live view to successfully obtain sharp results of moderately fast-moving subjects, too. Where it has greater difficulty is when it's asked to focus on a subject travelling directly towards the camera at very high speed. Some users may also wish to take advantage of relocating the AF point or AF area using the touchscreen, which works well when it's combined with the touch shutter function.

Performance

Canon DSLRs are known for being reliable performers. Having shot with the camera for a week in the Scottish Highlands, it certainly lived up to my expectations. Compared to some batteryhungry mirrorless cameras I've been using of late, it made a nice change travelling with a single battery, knowing it had ample charge for a full day of shooting. The battery lasts for around 1,200 shots, but be wary that using Wi-Fi will reduce its life more quickly. It's often forgotten that the remaining



Detail pulled back from a raw file Canon EF 17-40mm f/4 L USM, 1/125sec at f/5.6, ISO 800

Focal points

The EOS 6D Mark II may not look much different, but there's plenty on offer to get excited about

BR-E1 remote

As well as having the option to trigger the camera from the Canon Connect app. the EOS 6D Mark II is Bluetooth-compatible, allowing it to be used with Canon's BR-E1 remote controller. This triggers the camera from up to 5m away and is ideal for the likes of selfies, group shots and certain wildlife set-ups.

AF system 27 of the 45 AF points are f/8 compatible, the centre point is sensitive down to f/2.8 and you get the usual selection of One Shot AF, AI Servo AF and AI Focus AF modes to choose from.





Dual Pixel AF

Autofocus in live view is possible over an area of approximately 80% vertical x 80% horizontal of the frame. The Servo AF mode and the different AF methods are accessed quickly using the dedicated AF button from the top plate.

Vari-angle touchscreen

After years of waiting, a vari-angle touchscreen finally makes it onto a full-frame EOS DSLR. It pulls out from the back of the camera with ease and tilts smoothly. For times when you're only using the viewfinder, the screen can be flipped in on itself to protect it from scratches and fingerprints.



144mm



power can be checked as a percentage from the battery info in the main menu, as can the shutter count since the last charge.

Although it won't be the first choice for action photographers who need something faster than 6.5fps, the way the 6D Mark II delivers punchy images, faithful colour and strong results at high sensitivity settings makes it a very versatile option for a variety of different subjects. Talking of speed, I managed to rattle off 21 raw images and 77 large JPEG images to my SanDisk Extreme Pro 64GB Class 10 SDXC card at 6.5fps before its buffer limit was reached.

By switching the drive mode from continuous to silent, the slap of the shutter mechanism is suppressed ever so slightly, but don't expect it to go unnoticed in a quiet church at a wedding. Describing it as a slightly quieter shutter mode instead of silent would be far more accurate.

Very little exposure adjustment was required during my testing. The metering system analyses scenes admirably and only rarely did I find myself dialling in -0.3EV to prevent highlights being clipped. Users will feel confident using the camera in its evaluative metering mode, but for trickier scenes, there's always spot, partial and centreweighted to choose from.

Canon provides a good amount of control over image processing settings. The default auto picture style determines what it thinks is the best processing and rendering settings for any given scene, but for those who'd like a more consistent style to their JPEGs, there are seven other picture styles to choose from. If you'd like your image to reflect the scene as you see with your eyes, the Faithful picture mode is a great place to start. In playback, users get a fine

selection of raw processing options with the ability to save an image as a new file after it has been edited.

From the custom functions menu, you can reassign different settings to different buttons. The way you can change things around, such as setting the exposure lock button to enter AI servo mode when it's depressed, can be useful. It's even possible to switch the dial functions around so the top dial adjusts aperture and the rear dial controls shutter speed.

Provided that you have the latest version of the Canon's Camera Connect app on your mobile device, it's possible to establish a Wi-Fi connection in seconds. Images are fast to load in the app and can be displayed in a thumbnail form alongside the date and time they were taken. As far as shooting remotely using your smartphone or tablet goes, it's possible to take control of shutter speed, aperture and ISO. Furthermore, you can adjust the position of the focus point, change the AF method and set other variables including drive mode, white balance and exposure compensation. This is all in addition to being able to pre-focus and fire the shutter remotely straight from your mobile device.

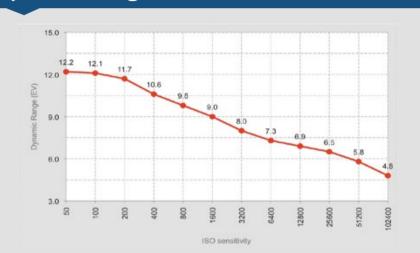
Overall, I found very little to fault with the EOS 6D Mark II's performance, other than finding it fell slightly short of being able to shoot 150 JPEG images at 6.5fps before its buffer was reached. It should also be noted that Canon's claimed figure is some way short of what was previously possible on the original EOS 6D – a little surprising given that it uses Canon's new DIGIC 7 image processor. By way of comparison, the EOS 6D could shoot a burst of 1,250 JPEGs, albeit at 4.5fps and at lower resolution.

Lab results

Andrew Sydenham's lab tests reveal just how the camera performs

It's always intriguing when a manufacturer launches a camera with a new sensor. The increase to 26.2 million pixels sees the EOS 6D Mark II resolve an exceptional level of detail and narrows the gap to the 30.4-million-pixel resolution offered by the Canon EOS 5D Mark IV. The camera can't match the high dynamic range of the EOS 5D Mark IV, but does put in a sterling noise performance that allows users to push up to ISO 6400 when needed. Above this, the quality drops, but recognisable images can still be achieved at ISO 25,600.

Dynamic range



The EOS 6D Mark II offers an improvement in dynamic range over the original EOS 6D at ISO 100 in our Image Engineering tests, but its 12.1EV readout at ISO 100 isn't as impressive as the 13.7EV recorded by the EOS 5D Mark IV. Results at ISO 3200, 6400 and 12,800 drop to 8.0EV, 7.3EV and 6.9EV respectively, and it's only when pushed to ISO 51,200 that the dynamic range drops below 6EV. While some may expect better dynamic range at low sensitivities, there's plenty of leverage when it comes to returning detail to shadow areas in real-world use, as depicted in some of the images that support this review.

Resolution

RAW

Below we show details from our resolution chart test pattern (right). Multiply the number beneath the lines by 200 to give the resolution in lines per picture height.



RAW

ISO 102,400

ISO 50 ISO 3200 ISO 25,600

RAW



RAW

The new 26.2-million-pixel sensor resolves a finer level of detail than its predecessor, with a maximum of 3,400l/ph being recorded at ISO 100. Detail remains high when the sensitivity is increased to ISO 1600 and ISO 3200, with an impressive 3,000l/ph being resolved right up to ISO 6400. Fine detail does eventually start to deteriorate, but our results verify that it's capable of resolving 2,600l/ph up to its native sensitivity ceiling of ISO 40,000. Users will want to avoid the camera's H1 (ISO 51,200) and H2 (ISO 102,400) settings.



Amateur Dhotographer Rimage Engineering



Noise

Both raw and JPEG images taken from our diorama scene are captured at the full range of ISO settings. The camera is placed in its default setting for JPEG images. Raw images are sharpened and noise reduction applied, to strike the best balance between resolution and noise.



RAW ISO 50



RAW ISO 1600



RAW ISO 25,600





RAW ISO 51,200





Images are free of noise at low ISO settings up to ISO 800, and it's only at ISO 1600 that you really start noticing luminance noise creeping into dark shadowed areas. Pushing the sensitivity a stop or two higher does make luminance noise more pronounced, but not to the point that ISO 3200 or ISO 6400 shouldn't be used when you need to. Apply some vigilant noise reduction to images taken at ISO 6400 and you'll be able to create some very usable results. I'd have little reluctance setting ISO 6400 as the maximum when working in Auto ISO. Pushing up to ISO 12,800 isn't out of the question, but colour starts to get a little muted at ISO 25,600. As the square crops clearly illustrate, ISO 51,200 and ISO 102,400 should be avoided unless there's no other option.

The competition



Nikon D750

Price £1,629 (body only) Sensor 24.3MP CMOS full-frame

ISO 50-51,200

Continuous shooting 6.5fps

Reviewed 25 October 2014





Pentax K-1

Price £1,999

Sensor 36.4MP CMOS full-frame

ISO 100-204,900

Continuous shooting 4.4fps

Reviewed 6 September 2016





Sony Alpha 7 II

Price £1,149 (body only) Sensor 24.3MP APS-C

ISO 50-25,600

Continuous shooting 5fps

Reviewed

9 January 2015



Read the full tests of these cameras at www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/reviews

Verdict

THE EOS 6D Mark II is a steppingstone for existing Canon users to get into full-frame photography and is a viable alternative to the more advanced EOS 5D Mark IV. Those thinking about a move away from a Canon APS-C DSLR will need to factor in that it's not just the body that'll set you back - the extra expense of upgrading a few EF-S lenses to a new collection of EF lenses could well see the price soar to more than £3,000.

As an all-rounder, it puts in a highly respectable performance. Its snappy AF speed in live view, sensational vari-angle touchscreen and wireless connectivity options are likely to gain interest from older EOS 5D-series users who fancy an up-to-date body, or perhaps a back-up body in a smaller form factor.

As well as the pros, there are a few cons. The AF system has improved in terms of the number of points it offers, with no fewer than 27 that can focus down to f/8, but all the points are tightly grouped and don't span particularly widely across the frame. Added to this, it's not as fast or as intuitive to reposition the AF point as it is on an 5D-series model that benefits from a thumb-operated AF toggle. Its lack of dual card slots, 4K video and dedicated exposurecompensation button are other reasons why some may bypass the EOS 6D Mark II and opt for the 5D Mark IV instead.

Anyone contemplating the EOS 6D Mark II will want to consider



the compromises mentioned above and decide which features are absolutely essential to their needs. If a vari-angle touchscreen is fundamental to your way of working and you feel you could benefit from shedding a few extra grams off your shoulder, it makes a strong case for itself.

Making an appealing EOS 6D-series camera that doesn't cannibalise the sales of its EOS 5D-series has always been a challenge for Canon, and while I feel it could have been futureproofed slightly better by adding a second SD card slot and 4K video, it has an advanced enough feature set that will satisfy the majority of

enthusiasts who are ready to buy into their first full-frame camera.



8/10
9/10
8/10
7/10
9/10
7/10
8/10
8/10





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- 3. Pay the £250 deposit* plus postage fees or collect in store for free

*We deduct the deposit fee from your subsequent order[†] of the same item(s). If you choose not to place an order we will refund your deposit in full. †Don't worry you will receive a brand new boxed item in your order.



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VF-31 Viewfinder VF-41 Viewfinder VF-51 Viewfinder CR-31 Cable release BP-61 Li-ion Battery HC-21 Hard Case for DP2 Lens Hood LH4-01 for DP Lens Hood LH5-01 for DP0



Tokina's new wideangle zoom promises several improvements. Michael Topham learns more

he Tokina AT-X 11-20mm f/2.8 PRO DX, for Canon and Nikon DSLR cameras with APS-C sensors, follows on from the Tokina AT-X 11-16mm f/2.8 PRO DX and the improved Tokina AT-X 11-16mm f/2.8 PRO DX II. Released in 2012, the latter benefited from a built-in AF motor to make it compatible with a wider range of Nikon DSLRs. It also introduced superior anti-reflective coatings to reduce the lens flare that the original had been known to suffer from.

Although it doesn't shoot quite as wide as Canon's EF-S 10-18mm f/4.5-5.6 IS STM or the Nikon 10-20mm f/4.5-5.6 G AF-P DX, it has the benefit of a constant f/2.8 aperture. In

addition, it's built to a more robust standard than these budget wideangle zooms. On paper, this lens looks like an excellent choice for anyone looking for a faster and wider alternative to the Tokina AT-X 12-28mm f/4 PRO DX.

This third-generation wideangle covers a broader focal range than the two 11-16mm zooms that came before it. The focal length is equivalent to 16.5-30mm when it's paired with Nikon APS-C DSLRs, with their 1.5x crop factor, whereas it's equivalent to 17.6-32mm on Canon APS-C DSLRs. The extra reach you get at the long end brings it more into line with

the other wideangle zooms on the market and to ensure it offers the best image quality, Tokina has reworked the optical design.

Unlike the PRO DX II, which was made up of 13 elements in 11 groups, this lens has 14 elements in 12 groups, with nine aperture blades. Now weighing 560g, the lens's minimum focus distance is reduced to 28cm. It sandwiches two glass moulded aspherical lens elements between three super-lowdispersion glass elements in an effort to keep contrast and sharpness high, while minimising spherical aberrations. Towards the front of the lens group there's also what's known as a P-MO aspherical lens that contributes to the bulbous appearance of the front element.

The lens has a minimum aperture of f/22 and relies on the manufacturer's multi-layer film coatings to reduce the





internal reflections that can cause ghosting and flare. Unlike some wideangle zooms, it doesn't feature optical image stabilisation, but this isn't seen to be an essential on a wideangle zoom.

An internal focusing system ensures the front element doesn't rotate when zooming, which is important for those who regularly use polarisers. The front of the lens is also larger in diameter than Tokina's previous 11–16mm wideangle zooms, with an 82mm thread as opposed to 77mm. At the rear, a rubber ring compresses as it's mounted, which effectively seals it against the camera's metal lens mount. However, it's not classified as being weather-sealed throughout. As part of the boxed contents, you receive lens caps for front and back, as well as a plastic BH–821 petal–shaped lens hood that locks with a reassuring click.

Build and handling

Given its f/2.8 maximum aperture and 82mm filter thread, I was expecting the lens to be larger than it is. It is described as a compact ultra-wideangle zoom and Tokina has made it

a practical size without being too bulky. At its widest point, it's 5mm thicker than the AT-X 11-16mm f/2.8 PRO DX II. It's a couple of millimetres longer, too, but feels comfortable and well balanced when paired with an average-sized APS-C DSLR.

As touched upon earlier, one difference between this optic and cheaper wideangle zooms is its build quality. Although there is some plastic in its construction, it's robust and feels able to withstand reasonably vigorous day-to-day use. There is a broad focusing ring towards the front of the lens and a narrower zoom ring behind, with a small focus distance window between the two. Both rings are rubberised to enhance grip and the focus ring has a finer texture. The zoom ring operates across its range with less than a quarter turn, and although the resistance of the ring is greater than you get on some lenses of this type, it's consistently smooth. I was able to zoom across the range using just my thumb from its resting position in the palm of my hand.

The eagle-eyed will notice there are no switches on the side of the barrel. Instead, you

get Tokina's trademark one-touch-focus clutch mechanism that allows photographers to switch between AF and MF by snapping the focus ring forward for AF and back towards the lens mount for manual focusing. While this method of focus operation is intuitive, the drawback is the lack of manual intervention in AF mode. In use, I discovered that you need to be quite positive with the snapping motion, too, otherwise it might not engage fully into manual-focus mode as it should.

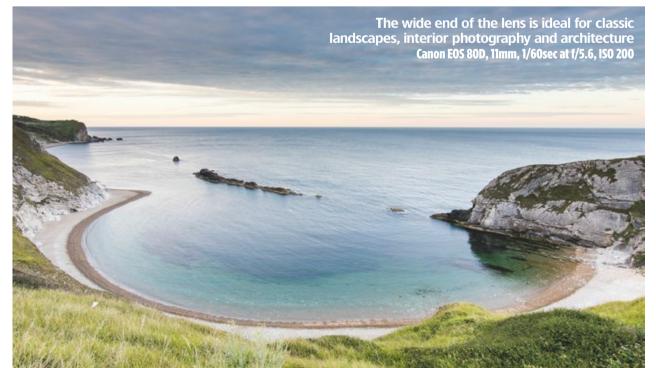
At the front of the lens, you'll find a white dot that pairs up with the white dot on the lens hood to make it that little bit easier to align and attach. Just behind this is the gold ring that's become synonymous with Tokina's AT–X PRO–series lenses. As I found out on our review sample, though, this has a tendency to peel off, so I just removed it to prevent it from being a long–term distraction.

Autofocus

Extending the lens to the long end and asking it to autofocus between near and far subjects revealed it's far from silent in use. Although the whirring noises are fairly low frequency, it's one of the loudest lenses I've used recently. As soon as I started operating it, I felt it would benefit from a faster and quieter AF motor. The whirrs and groans of the autofocus shouldn't put off stills photographers, but they will be more of a concern for videographers who look for silently performing lenses that won't disturb any audio that's being recorded by the camera's built-in microphone.

Image quality

We paired up our review sample with Canon's mid-range enthusiast DSLR, the EOS 80D. Inspecting a series of shots taken along the coast revealed its optical performance isn't flawless; nevertheless, it delivers an admirable level of sharpness as far as wideangle zooms







Chromatic aberration is visible in this image, but the fringing can be easily removed in raw processing Canon EOS 80D, 11mm, 1/400sec at f/5.6, ISO 100

for APS-C DSLRs go. Stop the lens down from its maximum aperture to f/4 and you'll notice an improvement in centre sharpness, with corner sharpness peaking between f/5.6 and f/8. Satisfactory results can be achieved at f/11, but beyond this point sharpness levels do start to tail off, with the introduction of diffraction.

There's always an element of concern about how well wideangle optics are able to control curvilinear distortion. Tokina's older 11-16mm wideangle zooms handled distortion well, and much the same can be said for this lens. Use it at its widest setting and you'll witness some barrel distortion, whereby the corners bow inwards towards the edge. However, it's not as pronounced as you might expect, and is easy enough to correct later, provided you shoot in the raw format and select the appropriate profile from the list of Tokina lenses. Barrel distortion becomes less visible when the zoom is extended to 16mm and beyond.

Signs of chromatic aberration were also observed in our test shots, with purple and green fringing being traced along high-contrast edges of images taken of a castle ruins. Most modern Nikon DSLRs can correct this automatically as part of their JPEG processing, but Canon JPEG shooters don't have this luxury and are therefore advised to shoot in raw and correct it manually.

As for corner shading, this is most obvious when the lens is used wide open at the widest end of the zoom. It's slightly less severe at 16mm and 20mm, and you'll start to see an improvement by closing the aperture down by a couple of stops. If you would like your images to be fall-off free at 11mm, straight out of camera, it's advisable to stop the lens down to around f/8. In the same way as distortion and chromatic aberration can be removed in post, it's possible to remedy vignetting in seconds, provided you shoot in the raw format and apply the correct profile.

Verdict

If you know you would benefit from an ultra-wide zoom with a fast maximum aperture, you should carefully consider this lens. It's one of the most affordable wide-angle f/2.8 zooms and combines superior sharpness with a more robust build quality compared to budget options. It's not without its optical flaws though and for best results you'll want to shoot in raw and correct aberrations later.

If the fast aperture isn't essential I'd be tempted to save £50 and settle for the Tokina AT-X 12-28mm f/4 PRO DX instead.

Alternatively Tamron's 10-24mm f/3.5-4.5 Di II VC HLD (£579) is weather resistant and offers optical image stabilisation. But overall this 11-20mm makes a solid case for itself and is likely to land up in the bags of those who need a fast aperture for low-light situations.



Data file

Price £499

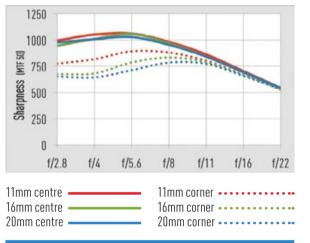
Filter diameter Lens elements 14 **Groups** 12 **Aperture blades** 9 **Aperture** f/2.8-f/22 Minimum focus 28cm **Dimensions** 89x92mm Weight 560g Lens mount Canon, Nikon Included accessories Lens cap, lens hood

lmateur Testbench

Tokina AT-X 11-20mm **f/2.8 PRO DX**

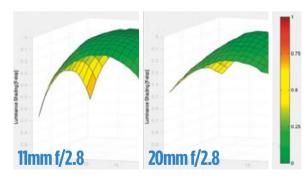
Resolution

Our test results matched what we identified in our real-world shots. Centre sharpness peaks at f/5.6 at all focal lengths, with slightly sharper results being recorded towards the edge at f/8. Dial in an aperture value of f/5.6 or f/8 and you'll be close to producing the sharpest results you can. I'd advise not shooting too far beyond f/11, at which point diffraction starts to take its toll on sharpness.



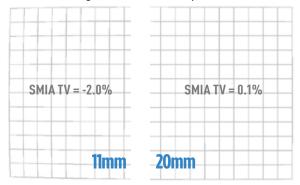
Shading

At maximum aperture, the edges of images appear darker than the centre of the frame. Light fall-off is noticeable wide open at all focal lengths, but is strongest at 11mm. Vignetting can be minimised by stopping down to f/8. Alternatively, there's a quick, one-click fix in the lens corrections tab.



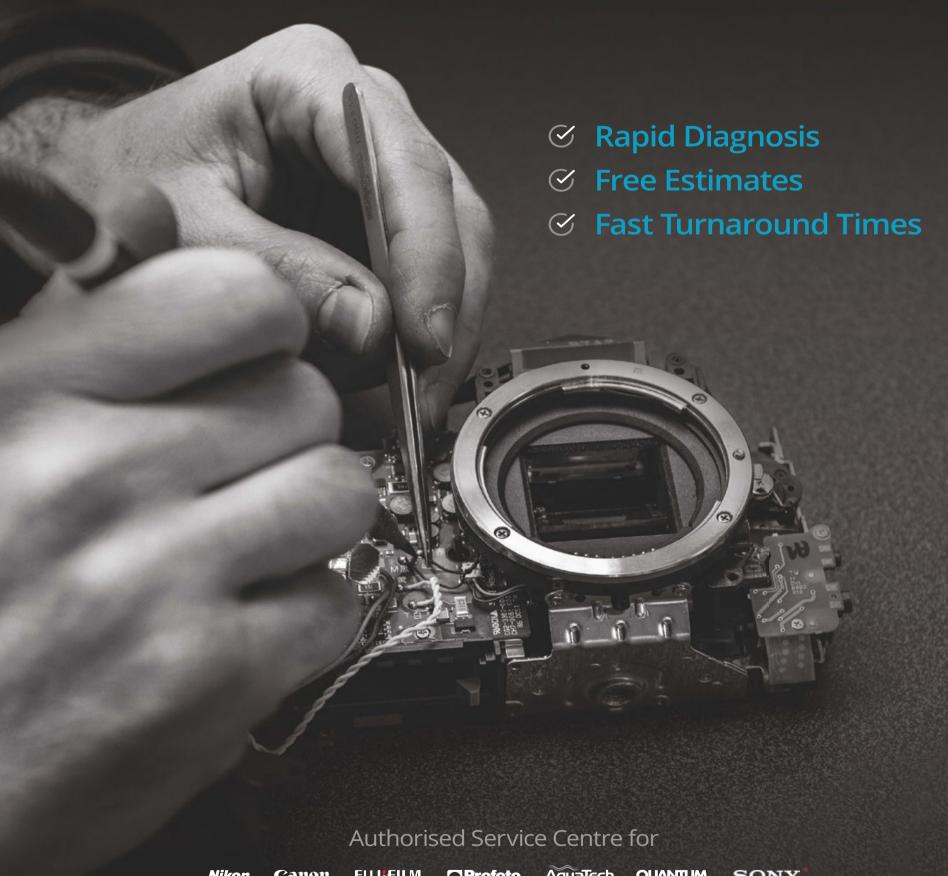
Curvilinear distortion

Barrel distortion appears at the widest end of the zoom range. The good news is, it subsides as you progress towards 16mm. To remove the barrel distortion that's introduced at wide focal lengths, I'd recommend applying the lens profile that's available in Lightroom, Photoshop and Camera Raw.



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Sirui P-224S monopod

Videographer **Dan Laughton** puts a new Sirui monopod to the test

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SIRUI'S PS range comprises six monopods that vary in weight, build, material and size. At the top of the range is the six-section P-426S, which is made from 10-layer carbon. This monopod holds the most weight (10kg) and it commands the highest price of £250. The aluminium four-section P-204S is at the bottom of the range, can hold 8kg, and costs around £150.

The P-224S on test here is towards the lower end of the range, being one up from the P-204S. It is made from eight-layer carbon, which is what gives this monopod its ability to hold up to 8kg of kit while maintaining its light weight of 1.3kg.

I used this monopod with Sirui's VA-5 fluid video head (costing £169.90). This added very little extra weight to an already very light monopod and definitely benefited my filmmaking as I was able to move everything very easily. Even without the head, though, the monopod moved well. It has the ability to tilt $\bar{20}^{\circ}$ in all directions, with a twist lock to keep it securely in place. The P-224S doesn't come with the VA-5 head, as the main monopod and head components are sold separately so the user can match the products that best suit them.

This four-section monopod extends from a portable 70cm up to a sizeable 1.6m. When raising its height, the P-224S did not lose strength, balance or sturdiness. The four sections of this monopod are twist-lock adjustable, which keeps each section firmly in place, with no slippage.

Three aluminium folding legs keep the monopod stable on the ground. Although the legs seem short for the monopod's height, they are very secure. They also clip in and out easily, leaving no sharp edges to catch you as the monopod is carried.

The Sirui P-224S stood out for me as a filmmaker simply because of its build. It has been built to last and yet it weighs very little, making it easy to carry around as a 'just-in-case' monopod.

Verdict

I loved using this monopod. It definitely benefited my filmmaking, and the option of locking the monopod at an angle or at a particular height meant I didn't have to worry about maintaining

a steady shot when I needed to. A big selling point of this monopod is its light weight, combined with its professional build. Light products sometimes feel cheap or tacky, but this model is strong and sturdy - and it handles extremely well.

At a glance

- Lightweight at 1.3kg
- Sturdy eight-layer carbon construction
- Wrist strap included
- Option for additional head

Foam rubber grip

A comfortable foam grip is always useful when working in cold conditions.



Bundled accessories include a rubber foot and a metal spike for when you're not using the spider stand



The head allows the user to move the monopod from its base stand up to a 20° angle.



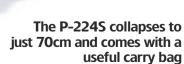
Stand Spider

Made of aluminium, the Stand Spider keeps the monopod steady on the ground. The legs then fold up to the body and lock in securely.



DO I NEED A MONOPOD?

I often ask myself whether I really need to take a monopod on a shoot. Given that the Sirui P-224S weighs next to nothing, has a wrist strap, a foam handgrip and even a carry bag, it has instantly become an essential 'just in case' accessory.





Calling the adventurer within...

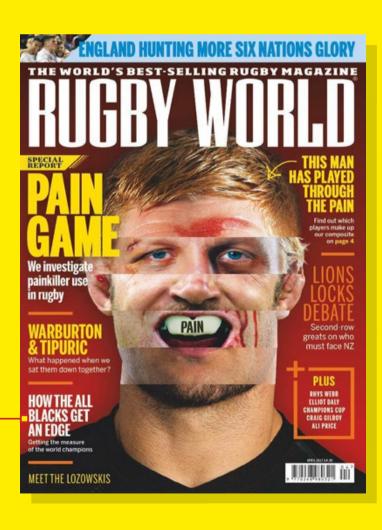
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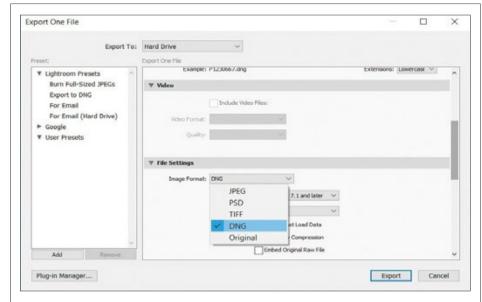






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In Lightroom you can convert files to DNG before exporting them Lightroom DNG problem

I have been an avid reader of AP since the mid 1960s, and thought you may have a solution to a problem I have recently encountered. My computer has ceased working after 13 years and I am being forced to use my nephew's laptop as a replacement. This has meant abandoning Elements 2 and Windows XP, for Lightroom 3.6 and Windows 7. The learning curve is huge, and to add to the complexity, I recently shot some photographs in raw on my Nikon D70, downloaded them into Lightroom, at the same time converting them, in programme, to DNGs. All are stored in Library, but when I attempt to export all the photographs to disc, all that are written are JPEG versions and no DNGs at all! I have written them three times, with the same result. What am I doing wrong? My nephew doesn't have an answer, so I can only assume there is some function button I have failed to enable. Can you help? **Cliff Andrews**

You have to put the old way of doing things the 'Photoshop' way, out of your mind. When you import any images into Lightroom, they will not be altered by Lightroom in any way. They are protected 'originals' and this is why programs like Lightroom are called 'non-destructive'. The only way your originals could be jeopardised is if you don't make backups and you deliberately delete them, which can be done from within Lightroom or externally. It's not clear if you used a separate program to convert your raw files to DNG format or if you used the convert-to-DNG option when importing into Lightroom. But as you are getting JPEG versions of your files when exporting, it looks like you haven't yet got to grips with the, admittedly, complicated Lightroom export options. Exported files are only created at the time of export. Even if your original files aren't stored in DNG format in your Lightroom library, you can choose to convert them to DNG when you export them. There is no critical need to convert from native raw to DNG, incidentally. There are some advantages but also disadvantages. I'd recommend keeping your camera raw files as a backup.

Off-camera TTL flash for Fujifilm X?

I own a Fujifilm X-T1 and a Nikon D700. I currently own flashes and triggers for the Nikon but I am intending to move to a complete set of Fujifilm ones. I am planning to buy an X-T2 to accompany my X-T1. I do wedding photography and therefore I would like to know which flashguns are compatible with Fujifilm X-T1 or X-T2. Does the Fujifilm system support triggers for off-camera flash? I've heard good things about the Godox lighting. Does it provide through the lens (TTL)? I am looking for a flashgun and triggers that can provide TTL for my Fujifilm cameras.

PG Tips (AP forum)

Fujifilm's 'works' flash system has been a work-in-progress for a while but it's getting there with the recent launch of the EF-X500. It's compact but powerful and offers comprehensive multi-flash



Fujifilm EF-X500 flash is powerful

wireless off-camera control. For some, its line-of-sight wireless signalling, rather than radio, is a deal-breaker, while for others it's the high price. Godox has just released the X1T-F TTL wireless flash trigger, with radio signalling. which is dedicated to Fujifilm bodies. This doesn't work with Fujifilm flash units, but with Godox's own range of studio and portable flash units. The trigger is inexpensive but so new that hands-on feedback wasn't available at the time of writing. Another solution that could suit vou is Serene Automation's RoboSHOOT flash trigger system. This lets you control your Nikon Speedlights off-camera from your Fujifilm X with TTL metering via radio signalling.

Olympus zoom version differences

I have been offered an Olympus 75–300mm zoom lens for an attractive price. I have an Olympus OM–D E–M10. When I saw it, I was surprised that it looked rather different from the one on the Olympus website, but the specifications look the same. Is it the same or should I buy the current one? **Kieran Little**

The version your friend has is the original M.Zuiko 75-300mm f/4.8-6.7 ED. The current version is different in two primary ways: it has replaced the retro-look external styling that was chosen to match the original Olympus Pen camera retro style and, second, the later Mark II version has improved ZERO (Zuiko **Extra-low Reflection Optical) lens** coatings. It sounds snazzy but it's not a game changer and flare is not a big issue with the original version anyway. Optically and mechanically they are identical.

Q&A compiled by Ian Burley

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Tech Talk



Tony Kemplen on the...

tica Nova

This simple SLR was introduced in 1964 and has two shutter-speed ranges set using two dials

he Praktica Nova has a special place in my affections, as this was my first 'proper' camera I was 13, and my enthusiasm for photography convinced my parents to subsidise me in buying a second-hand SLR. I spotted it in the local Dixons after school one day, and I had to get a note from school to be allowed out in the lunch hour to walk across town and buy it. I think it cost about £15.

I still have the camera, but the shutter has seized up and it has lost its viewfinder eyepiece, so when I spotted one for a few pounds on eBay I justified the purchase on grounds of nostalgia.

Mechanically, the Nova is derived from the pre-war Praktiflex, out of which evolved the Praktica line in post-war East Germany. Like its ancestors, it has two ranges of shutter speeds set using two separate dials, one for fast and one for slow speeds. The body accepts 42mm screw-mount lenses, and although there is provision to automatically stop down the aperture, the lens that



Tony had to seek special permission to buy this, his first 'proper' camera

came with it, a Meritar 50mm f/2.9, used the more primitive preset system. So it wasn't until I got my hands on an automatic lens a couple of years later that I was able to take full advantage of it.

Introduced in 1964, the Praktica Nova dates from before the days when electronic flash was ubiquitous. To cater for both the traditional bulbs and the new-

fangled tubes, there are two flash synchronisation sockets on the front of the camera, marked X and F for electronic and bulb respectively. There is no hotshoe, or even cold shoe, so in order to attach a flash you can either use a flash bar screwed into the tripod bush, or an accessory cold shoe, which sat on top of the pentaprism and was secured by being screwed into the threaded eyepiece. This may explain why my eyepiece is now missing - the weight of the flashgun probably loosened it.

Budget lens

The Meritar is a surprisingly simple lens of the Cooke Triplet design, consisting of just three elements. It was definitely made for the budget end of the market, and the results reflect this. Reviews suggest that performance improves when stopped down, but I didn't have any choice about shooting at full aperture for this detail of a church organ. With its straight lines, circles and numbers, it recalls the formal lens testing charts we see in the pages of AP, and you don't need a magnifying glass to get the gist of the lens's performance.



Shooting wide open reveals the limitations of the simple Meritar lens's design

Tony Kemplen's love of photography began as a teenager and ever since he has been collecting cameras with a view to testing as many as he can. You can follow his progress on his 52 Cameras blog at **52cameras.blogspot.co.uk**. To see more photos from the Praktica Nova, visit **www.flickr.** com/tony kemplen/sets/72157683579998530.

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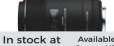


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135mm f2 ED UMC FE Samyang	Mint £299

Canon EOS Flashguns

200E Speedlite	E+ / E++ £9
300EZ Speedlite	
380EX Speedlite	E+ £49
420EZ Speedlite	E+ £29
430EX Speedlite	E+ / E++ £89 - £109
430EZ Speedlite	E+ / E++ £25 - £29
540EZ Speedlite	E+ £35 - £39
550EX Speedlite	Exc / E+ £79 - £129
580EX II Speedlite	E+ / E++ £169 - £189
580EX Mkll Speedlite	E+ £169
580EX Speedlite	E+ / E++ £129 - £149
600EX-RT Speedlite	E+ / Mint- £289 - £319
90EX Speedlite	E+ £49
MR-14EX Macro Ringlite	E+ £169
MT-24EX Macro Ringlite	E+ £449
ST-E2 Transmitter	E+ / E++ £59 - £69
ST-E3 RT Transmitter	E++ / Mint- £149 - £159

Zeiss ZE & ZF Lenses

Canon EOS Fit: 18mm F3.5 ZE.	E++ £699
25mm F2 ZE	E++ £949
21mm F2.8 ZE	E+ / E++ £849 - £889
50mm F1.4 ZE	E+ / E++ £389 - £399
85mm F1.4 ZE	
100mm F2 Makro Milvus ZE	
NIKON Fit: 15mm F2.8 ZF.2	
21mm F2.8 ZF	
21mm F2.8 ZF.2	E++ £889
25mm F2.8 ZF	
35mm F1.4 ZF.2	E++ £799
35mm F2 ZF	E+ / E++ £479
85mm F1.4 Planar T* ZF.2	Mint- £749
100mm F2 ZF2 Macro	Mint- £1,089

Canon EOS Lenses

11-22mm f4-5.6 IS STM	Mint- £219
11-24mm F4 L USM	E++ £2,349
1/mm F2 8 L LISM II	F_ / Mint_ £800 _ £080

15-45mm F3.5-6.3 IS STM E	FM Mint- £159
15mm F2.8 EF Fisheye 16-35mm F2.8 L USM MKII .	F++ £440
16 25mm E2 9 L LICM MIZI	E / Mint CO10 C1 040
10-3311111 FZ.O L USIVI IVIKII .	.E++ / WIIIIL- 2019 - 21,048
17-40mm F4 L USM 17-55mm F2.8 EFS IS USM .	E++ £399 - £419
17-55mm F2.8 EFS IS USM.	E++ £399
17-85mm F3.5-5.6 IS USM	Ac Soon £80
17-05HIII F3.5-5.0 IS 05W	AS SEEII EOS
18-55mm F3.5-5.6 EFS II	E++ £59
18-55mm F3.5-5.6 IS STM	E++ / Mint- £79
19-35mm F3.5-4.5	F+ £50
20 mm F2 0 UCM	F CO40
20mm F2.8 USM	E++ £24
22-55mm F4-5.6 USM	As Seen £29
22-55mm F4-5.6 USM 24-105mm F4 L IS USM	F+ / Mint- £359 - £449
24-70mm f2.8 L USM II	Mint_ £1 540
24-7011111 12.0 L 03W II	IVIIIIL- £1,548
24-70mm t4 L IS USM	E++ £599
24-70mm f4 L IS USM 24mm F1.4 L USM MKIIE	++ / Mint- £1,099 - £1,149
24mm F3.5 L TSE 24mm F3.5 L TSE MkII	F+ £590
24mm F2 F L TCE Mkll	E . C1 000
2411111 F3.5 L 13E WKII	E+ £1,098
28-135mm F3.5-5.6 IS USM	E++ £149
28-80mm F2.8-4 L USM	E+ £349
28-80mm F3.5-5.6 EF IV	E++ 630
28-90mm F4-5.6 USM II	E+ £3
35-135mm F4-5.6 USM 35-350mm F3.5-5.6 L USM. 35-70mm F3.5-4.5 EF	E+ £79
35-350mm F3.5-5.6 L USM	F++ £499
35-70mm F2 5-4 5 FE	E + 1 230
30-7011111 F3.3-4.3 EF	ETT 233
40mm F2.8 STM	Mint- £99
45mm F2.8 TS-E	Exc £549
50mm F1 4 USM	F_{++} £219
50mm F1 8 FF Mk1	F++ £110 - £120
55 000mm 54 5 5 C IC CTM	(NA) F. C1C
50mm F1.8 EF Mk155-200mm F4.5-5.6 IS STM 55-250mm F4-5.6 EFS IS	(IVI)E++ £103
55-250mm F4-5.6 EFS IS	E+ / E++ £89 - £99
55-250mm F4-5.6 EFS IS II.	E++ £109
60mm F2.8 EFS Macro	E++ £249 - £259
65mm F2.8 MP-E Macro	Mint- £740
70-200mm F2.8 L IS USM	E : 0740
70-20011111 F2.6 L 13 USIVI	
70-200mm F2.8 L IS USM II.	E++
Mint- £1,389 - £1,399	
70-200mm F4 L IS USM	E++ / Mint- £649
70-200mm f4 L USM IS	F++ £600
70 200mm 14 E CON 10	F
70-300mm f4-5.6 IS USM 75-300mm F4-5.6 EF III	E++ £23
75-300mm F4-5.6 EF III	E+ / Mint- £49 - £69
75-300mm F4-5.6 USM II	E+ £59
8-15mm F4 L Fisheye USM	F++ £880
0 Tollill 1 4 E 1 Slicyc Colvi	E : 0010
85mm F1.8 USM	C+ ZZI
90mm f2.8 TSE Shift 100mm F2.8 L Macro IS USM	E++ £/89
100mm F2.8 L Macro IS USN	/I…E++ / Mint- £549 - £579
100mm F2.8 USM Macro	F+ / F++ £259 - £299
100mm F2.8 USM Macro 200-400mm F4 L IS USM wi	th Internal 1 Av Extender
200-40011111114 L 13 03W WI	LITTILE TIAL 1.4X EXTENDED
Lens	E++ £9,499
200mm F2.8 L USM II 300mm F2.8 L IS USM MKIIE	E++ £399
300mm F2.8 L IS USM MKIIE	++ / Mint- £4,299 - £4,49
300mm F2.8 L USM	Evo £1 000
30011111 F2.6 L 03W	EXG £1,093
300mm F4 L IS USM	E+ / E++ £499 - £649
300mm F4 L USM	Exc £389
400mm F2.8 L USM	E+ £2 499
400mm F4 D0 IS II USM	Mint_ \$5 940
400 F4 D0 I0 II U3IVI	
400mm F4 D0 IS USM	E+ £2,3/9
400mm F5.6 L USM	
500mm F4 L IS USM	E+ £3.489
EF12 Extension Tube	
EEOE Extension Tube	LTT 233
EFZ5 EXTENSION TUDE	
	LTT 246
EF25 II Extension tube	E++ £49 Mint- £69

Canon EOS Teleconverters

1.4x Apo EX DG Converter S	gmaMint £129
1.4x EF II Extender	Exc / E++ £129 - £169
1.5x Converter Kenko	Mint- £39
1.5x DG Converter Kenko	E++ £45
1.5x SHQ DG Converter Kenl	ко E++ £39
2x Converter Soligor	E+ £39
2x EF Extender	Ac Coop / E C70 C140
ZX EL EXIGUACI	AS SEEII / E++ £/9 - £145
2x EF II Extender	
	E++ £169
2x EF II Extender	E++ £169 E+ £149
2x EF II Extender 2x EF MkII Extender	E++ £169 E+ £149 E+ £219
2x EF II Extender 2x EF MkII Extender 2x EF MkII Extender	E++ £169 E+ £149 E+ £219 As Seen £39

Canon EOS Fit Sigma

10-20mm F4-5.6 DC HSM	E+ £159
12-24mm F4.5-5.6 EX DG HSM	
12-24mm F4.5-5.6 EX DG HSM MKI	
17-70mm F2.8-4.5 DC	
18-200mm F3.5-5.6 DC	Exc £59
18-200mm F3.5-5.6 DC OS HSM	
18-250mm F3.5-6.3 DC OS HSM	As Seen £99
18-35mm F3.5-4.5 AF	Unused £79
28-70mm F2.8 EX DG	As Seen £59
35mm F1.4 DG HSM A	
50mm F1.4 EX DG HSM	
70-210mm F3.5-4.5 Apo	E++ £29 - £35
70-300mm F4-5.6 APO DG Macro	E++ £59 - £89
170-500mm F5-6.3 Apo	E+ £199
170-500mm F5-6.3 Apo DG	
180mm F3.5 EX Macro AP0	
200mm E2 0 And DC HCM E	C1 200 C1 400

Canon FD Cameras

T90 Body Only	E+ £79
F1NAE Body + AE Motordrive FN.	E+ £289
F1N Black Body Only	F+ £159
F1N Black Body Only F1 Body + Motordrive MF	F+ £180
AE1P Chrome + 50mm F1.8	F_ £70
FTb QL Chrome Body Only	Eve / E \$40 - \$50
Pellix Chrome Body Only	Λο Coop Ω40
24mm F2 9 FD	AS Seen £48
24mm F2.8 FD	Ulluseu £148
28-50mm F3.5-4.5 Paragon	E++ £10
28mm F3.5 B/lock	E++ £35
35-105mm F3.5-4.5 FD	E+ £45
35-135mm F3.5-4.5 Tamron 35-70mm F3.5-4.5 FD	E+ £49
35-70mm F3.5-4.5 FD	E+ / Unused £25 - £49
35mm F2 B/lock	E+ £279
35mm F3.5 EX	E+ / Mint- £29
50-135mm F3.5 FD	Mint- £149
70-150mm F2.8 SP Tamron 70-210mm F4 FD	E++ £199
70-210mm F4 FD	Exc / E++ £29 - £79
75-200mm F4.5 FD	Exc £29
80-210mm F3.8-4 Tamron	As Seen / E+ £19 - £25
95mm F3.5 EX	E+ £20
100-300mm F5.6 FD	E+ / Unused £49 - £99
100mm F4 B/lock Macro + Tube.	E+ £125
125mm F3.5 EX	E+ £29
135mm F3.5 B/lock	E++ £39
135mm F3.5 FD	F+ £35
300mm F5.6 FD	
300mm F5.6 SP Tamron	F+ £50
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2xB Extender	E + 200
AE Finder FN	
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Magnifier S	E++ £25
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Speed Finder F	
Speed Finder FN	As Seen £49
Speedfinder FN Waist Level Finder F	Unused £99 - £129
Waist Level Finder F	E++ £59
Waist Level Finder F1	
Waist Level Finder FN	
Waist Level Finder FN-6X	Mint- £79

Contax SLR Lenses

28-70mm F3.5-4.5 MM	E++ / Mint- £249 - £279
28-80mm F3.5-5.6 AF	. Unused / New £349 - £399
28mm F2.8 ML Yashica	E++ £39
28mm F2.8 MM	Exc £99
45mm F2.8 AE	
45mm F2.8 MM	
50mm F1.9 DSB Yashica	
60mm F2.8 AE Macro	
70-200mm F4-5.6 AF	
70-210mm F3.5-4.5 Apo Ya	
70-210mm F4-5.6 Yashica .	
70-300mm F4-5.6 AF	
85mm F2.8 MM	
135mm F2 (60 Year Edition)	
135mm F2.8 MM	
180mm F2.8 AE	
180mm F2.8 MM	
200mm F3.5 AE	
200mm F4 AE	
200mm F4 ML Yashica	
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Digital Mirrorless

Fuji X-T1 Body	Mint- £549
X-T1 Black Body + Case	Mint- £549
X-T1 Black Body Only	E++ £499 - £529
X-T1 Body + Vertical Grip	E+ £569
X-Pro1 Body	E+ £259
X-E2 Black Body Only	E++ £299
X-T20 Body Only - Black	E++ £669
X-T10 Black Body OnlyE++	/ Mint- £299 - £309
X-M1 Body Only	Mint- £149
Nikon V1 Black Body Only	E++ £99
V1 White + 10-30mm	E++ £149
Olympus Pen-F Black Body Only	E++ £749
E-M1 Black Body + HLD-7 Grip	E+ £429
E-M5 Black Body + HLD-6 Grip	E+ £279
E-M5 Silver Body Only	E+ £229
E-PL1 Black + 14-42	E++ £99
E-PL5 Black Body Only	E++ £149
Panasonic GH4 Body + Grip	E+ £579
GH-3 Body Only	E++ £349
GX7 Body Only	E++ £249
G80 Body Only	Mint- £479
GF-5 Body Only	. E+ / E++ £69 - £79
GF-3 + 14-42mm	E++ £149

G3 Black Body Only	E+ £49 - £59 Mint- £999 E++ £1,949 - £2,049 .Ε+ / Ε++ £1,049 - £1,199
A6000 + 16-50mm A6000 Body Only NEX C3 + 18-55mm + Flash	E++ £329
NEX-C3 Body Only	

Digital SLR Cameras

Canon EOS 1D MkII Body Only As Seen / E+ £299 EOS 1D MkII Body Only E++ £449 EOS 1D MKIV Body Only E+ / E++ £949 - £1,479 EOS 1DS MKIII Body Only E+ £699 EOS 20D Body Only Exc / E+ £79 - £99 EOS 300D H 18-55mm Exc / E+ £79 - £99 EOS 300D Body Only As Seen £39 EOS 400D Body Only E+ £149 EOS 500D Body Only E+ £149 EOS 50D Body Only As Seen / E+ £99 - £199 EOS 50D Body Only As Seen / E+ £99 - £199 EOS 5D MkII Body Only Exc / E+ £499 - £699 EOS 5D MkII Body Only Exc / E+ £499 - £699 EOS 5D MkIV Body Only Exc / E+ £1,449 - £1,549 EOS 5DS Body Only E++ £2,289 EOS 5DSR Body Only E++ £2,289 EOS 5DSR Body Only E++ £2,349 EOS 6D Body + BG-E13 Grip E++ £949
EOS 5DS Body Only E++ £2,289
EOS 6D Body 9 BG-E13 GIIP E++ £949 EOS 6D Body Only
EOS 70D Body Only Mint- £579
EOS 7D + BG-E7 Grip E++ £429 EOS 7D MKII Body OnlyMint £1,099
EOS C100 Camcorder Mint- £1,849
EOS M (Infra Red) + 18-55mm E++ £299
EOS M Body OnlyMint- £149
Nikon D3 Body Only

D300 Body Only	E+ £199
D3000 Body Only	
D300S Body Only	E+ £279
D4 Body Only	
D4S Body Only	
D50 Body Only	
D5100 Body Only	E++ £159
D5300 Body Only	
D5500 Body Only	
D600 Body Only	
D610 Body Only	E++ £849
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D7000 Body Only	
D7200 Body Only	
D750 Body Only	
D80 Body + MB-D80 Grip	
D80 Body Only	
D800 Body Only	
D800E Body Only	
D810 Body Only	
MB-D10 Grip	

E30 B0dy + HLD4 Grip	
E30 Body Only	E+ £179
E410 + 14-42mm	E+ £129
E420 + 14-42mm	E++ £149
E500 + 17.5-45mm	E++ £89
E520 + 14-54mm + 40-150mm	E+ £239 - £269
E520 + 17.5-45mm + 40-150	E++ £179
E620 + 14-42mm + 40-150mm	E++ £339
E620 + HLD-5 Grip	E++ £179
Pentax KP Body Only	Mint £889
K70 Body Only	Mint £489
K110D Body Only	E++ £99
Sony A200 + 18-70mm	
A330 + 18-55mm	E++ £199
A350 + 18-70mm	E+ £179
A55 + 18-70mm	E+ £159
A580 + 18-55mm	

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M-E Anthracite Body Only	E++ £2,169
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50mm F2.8 M Chrome E++ £549
65mm F3.5 ElmarE+ / Mint- £199 - £349
75mm F2.4 M Black 6bit + Hood Mint- £1,149
75mm F2.5 Black 6 BIT E+ / E++ £629 - £659
75mm F2.5 M Black 6bit E++ £699
90mm F4 Macro M Set 6bit E++ £1,649

Leica R Lenses

15mm F3.5 R 3cam	Mint £1,599
19mm F2.8 R 3cam	
24mm F2.8 ROM	E+ £749
28-90mm F2.8-4.5 ROM	E++ £2,699
28mm F2.8 R 3cam	
35-70mm F3.5 R Japan	E+ / Mint- £229 - £299
35mm F4 PA Curtagon	Mint- £399
60mm F2.8 Macro ROM	
60mm F2.8 R 3cam Macro	E+ / E++ £349 - £399
60mm F2.8 R Macro + Tube	
75-200mm F4.5 R 3cam	
80-200mm F4 R0M	
90mm F2.8 R 3cam	
100mm F2.8 APO Macro 3cam	
105-280mm F4.2 Vario ROM	
135mm F2.8 R 3cam	
180mm F2.8 R 2cam	
180mm F2.8 R 3cam	
180mm F2.8 ROM	
250mm F4 R 3cam	
280mm F2.8 Apo R 3cam	E+ £2,699

Mamiya 645AFD

645AFD II Complete	E+ £799
645AF Complete with P45+ Digital Back	E++ £4,649
45mm F2.8 AF	E+ £289
45mm F2.8 AF Phase One	Mint- £739
150mm F3.5 AF	E++ £299
210mm F4 AF ULD	E++ £399
120/220 Mag 645AF/D	E++ £79
Aptus Creo 22 Digital Back Leaf	.As Seen £950
Polaroid Mag 645AF/D	E++ £49

Nikon AF Lenses

10-24mm F3.5-4.5 G AFS DX E++ £549 14-24mm F2.8 G AFS EDE++ / Mint- £849 - £1,049 16-85mm F3.5-5.6 G ED VR AFS DX E+ / Mint- £199 - £259
17-55mm F2.8 G AFS DX IFED
18-55mm F3.5-5.6 G AF-P DX VR
24-70mm F3.5-5.6 IX
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58mm F1.4 G AFS ED	E++ £1,149
60mm F2.8 AFD Micro	E++ £199
60mm F2.8 AFS ED Micro	E++ £299
70-200mm F2.8 G AFS ED VR.	E++ £789
70-200mm F2.8 G AFS ED VRII	
E	+ / E++ £1.149 - £1.279
70-210mm F4-5.6 AFN	E+ £69
80-200mm F2.8 ED AF	
80-200mm F2.8 ED AFD	
80-400mm F4.5-5.6 AFD VR	
85mm F1.8 AF-S G	
105mm F2.8 AFS G VR Micro	E++ £439
135mm F2 D AF DC	E++ £789
180mm F2.8 ED AFD	
200-400mm F4 G VR AFS IFED	
E-	+ / Mint- £1.949 - £2.499
300mm F2.8 G AFS ED VR II	
300mm F2.8 IFED AF	
300mm F2.8 IFED AF-I	E++ £1.199
300mm F2.8 IFED AFS	E+ £1.599
300mm F4 AFS IFED	E+ £499
500mm F4 G AFS VR IF ED	E+ £4.339

55-200mm F4-5.6 AFS DX G VR Mint- £109

Nikon AF - Sigma Lenses

4.5mm F2.8 EX DC Fisheye HSM	E++ £499
8-16mm F4.5-5.6 DC HSM	
24-60mm F2.8 EX DG	E++ £239
24mm F1.4 DG HSM (A)	. Mint- £499
28-70mm F2.8 AF	E+ £79
28mm F1.8 EX DG	E++ £179
35mm F1.4 DG HSM A	. Mint- £499
50-150mm F2.8 Apo HSM II	
50mm f1.4 EX DG	. Mint- £239
55-200mm F4-5.6 DC HSM	E++ £49
180mm F3.5 EX Macro APO	E++ £349
180mm F5.6 Apo Macro	E++ £189

Olympus OM

OM4Ti Black Body	Mint- £649
OM40 Black Body Only	E+ £39
OM3 Black Body Only	E+ £399
OM2N Chrome + 50mm + Winder	
OM30 Chrome Body Only	E+ £35 - £39
16mm F3.5 Fisheye Zuiko	
24mm F2.0 Zuiko	Mint- £399
28mm F2.8 Zuiko	E+ £39
35-70mm F4 Zuiko	E+ £39
35mm F2.8 Zuiko Shift	Mint- £399
50-250mm F5 Zuiko	E++ £239 - £299
50mm F1.8 Zuiko	
65-200mm F4 Zuiko	
80mm F4 Macro Zuiko	E++ £199
80mm F4 Macro Zuiko + Close-u	
85-250mm F5 Zuiko	
100-200mm F5 Zuiko	
135mm F4.5 Macro Zuiko	Mint- £199
180mm F2.8 Zuiko	E+ £289
200mm F5 Zuiko	E+ £35
250mm F2 Zuiko	Mint- £3,499
350mm F2.8 Zuiko	E+ £1,950

Pentax AF Lenses

8mm F3.5 UMC Fisheye Walimex E++ £249
10-17mm F3.5-4.5 D Samsung Mint- £239
14mm F2.8 SMC DA E++ £399
16-50mm F2.8 A* DA SDM E+ / Mint- £379 - £549
16mm F2.0 ED AS UMC CS Samyang E++ £259
17-28mm F3.5-4.5 Fisheye FE+ £249
17-50mm F2.8 Di II Tamron E++ £179
17-50mm F2.8 XR Di II Tamron E++ £179
17-70mm F4 DA AL (IF) SDM E+ / E++ £179 - £239
18-135mm F3.5-5.6 ED AL (IF) DC WR
E+ / Mint- £179 - £219
18-55mm F3.5-5.6 DA AL As Seen / E++ £29 - £39
21mm F3.2 DA AL LEMint £279
28-70mm F2.8 SMC AL FA*E+ £549
28-80mm F3.5-5.6 FA E+ / Mint- £20 - £49
35mm F2.4 DA AL E++ £79
50-135mm F2.8 DA* ED SDM E++ £399
50-200mm F4-5.6 DA ED As Seen / E++ £29 - £49
50-200mm F4-5.6 DA ED WR E++ / Mint £79 - £99
50mm F1.4 SMC FA E++ £179
55-300mm F4-5.8 DA-L EDE+ £129
55-300mm F4.5-6.3 DA PLM WR Mint- £319
55mm F1.4 DA* SDM E++ £379
60-250mm F4 ED (IF) SDM Mint- £749
80-200mm F2.8 SMC EDIF FA*E+ £699
80-320mm F4.5-5.6 SMC FAE+ £75

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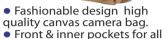
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'Paper Plate Face', by Nick Meyer



'I chose this picture because, like so many others in the book, it is immediately evocative'

ick Meyer's book Either Limits or Contradictions (Daylight Books, 2017) is far more than the sum of its parts. At first sight, the parts (of which this is one) are mere disconnected snapshots. Much as I liked the book, I had some difficulty in choosing just one picture - not because so many were so good, but because so many were so ordinary. This, paradoxically, was what made them good. We can easily relate to them - we could very easily have taken them ourselves.

This all came to me as soon as I started to ruminate on why I should find any of it of interest. Most of the pictures fall into one of two categories: 'I wish I'd had a camera with me,' or (in some ways worse, because I did have a camera with me, but didn't take a picture), 'I wish I'd taken a picture of that.' They are pictures of the life we all lead; or perhaps

from my point of view, that I once led, as he is 31 years younger than I am. Even so, I can clearly 'remember' many of the things he photographed, a universality of experience among the young and relatively well-to-do in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

There isn't enough of a stylistic or thematic consistency in the book to mark anything as typical. This certainly isn't. Perhaps the most typical (and often the weakest) are pictures of his friends: less than portraits but more than snapshots. I can think of numerous similar pictures I took of my own friends, some now dead.

So I chose this picture because, like so many others in the book, it is immediately evocative. You can smell the damp leaves, the wet paper and stone; vou can feel the coldness of the narrow granite kerb. The cut-out face echoes a Halloween pumpkin – another reminder

of autumn. Recent rain has left its mark, reminding us that everything is transitory. It would not be the same picture if everything were uniformly wet or uniformly dry.

Am I making excuses for a mediocre picture, supporting some sort of fine-art mafia? Maybe, but I don't think so. Should he have pulled the till receipt out from under the tyre? Again, I think not. It is ugly, and the balled-up paper handkerchief among the leaves is frankly disgusting, but without those two white splashes the paper-plate face is too glaring, too obvious. With them, it symbolises the transience of everything - not just leaves and weather, but also happiness or (perhaps more accurately) that weasel form of enjoyment we call fun. It is composition in the service of emotion; which is, after all, the purpose of composition.

Roger Hicks has been writing about photography since 1981 and has published more than three dozen books on the subject, many in partnership with his wife Frances Schultz (visit his new website at www.rogerandfrances.eu). Every week in this column Roger deconstructs a classic or contemporary photograph. Next week he considers an image by Christian Ramade.

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